



United Hatzalah of Israel

Highlights of the week in Israel 18 December 2008

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This week was a tough one for our valiant southern district. Aside being on edge due to the increased bombardment of the communities near the Gaza Strip they responded rapidly and professionally to the horrible bus accident near Eilat.

United Hatzalah medics continued to hone their skills as part of our continuing education program. Zevy Kashash, United Hatzalah Chairman, was on hand to receive an award for the organization from the National Authority for Road Safety.

Kudos to Avi Weinreich and his well earned honor and speedy recovery to Amir Goldstein who was wounded in the line of duty.

Have a great week.

Sincerely,

Eli Beer

Chief coordinator

MCI - Bus Flip near Eilat

It is the **worst moment** a medic has to face. A seriously and obviously wounded person, **bloodied, scared and calling for help** yet the medic is forced to **ignore them and move on**. That is the situation that **United Hatzalah medics near Eilat** reported facing when they arrived on scene at yesterdays **horrific bus crash**.

Due to the nature of the crash, **victims were flung out** of the bus **throughout the entire descent**. Those that managed to stay in the bus until the bus came to rest were **marginally better than those thrown out early**. Medics responded based on the **START (Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment) method**. Ambulatory and responsive individuals obviously receive **delayed care** rating but almost **no one fit that category**. Many were unfortunately at the other end of the spectrum being **clearly lifeless**.

It was the **middle categories that were challenging**, responsive individuals were better off than their





companions who were **no longer conscious**, but could any of them be saved. That is where the training kicked in. Could a chin lift or jaw thrust **open an airway and save a life**? Is there someone with a **life-threatening arterial wound**? What type of **rescue resources** do we have on scene? All these factors were being **rapidly calculated and recalculated** as the situation developed and more resources came on-scene.

United Hatzalah spokesperson Yerach Tucker reported “The joint exercises between **United Hatzalah volunteers, MDA and the IDF** helped expedite the triage process based on an awareness of the **personnel, transport and medical equipment** available. **Communication was spotty** at times due to the steep ravines but between the walkie-talkies, mobile phones and the ever reliable hand motions all treatable patients were **rapidly treated and evacuated** in an impressively **short period of time.**”

Continuing Education

As part of United Hatzalah’s **ongoing commitment** to professional advancement and the **highest level of emergency medical care**, medics were treated to a fascinating lecture by **Dr. Yosef Liebman, Emergency Room Director of Bikur Cholim Hospital.**

Dr. Liebman focused on maintaining the “**continuum of care**”. This goes beyond ensuring that chest compressions and ventilation continue throughout the evacuation, transportation and transfer. It is **critical that** medics clearly and concisely **inform the duty nurse** about information gleaned from the scene that may not be included in the incident report sheet. Details regarding **MOI** (mechanism of injury), any additional **medical or pharmacological patient history**, and of course a complete set of **patient vitals**, pointing out any changes that may have occurred along the way.



United Hatzalah recognized for road safety campaigns



Once again United Hatzalah was recognized by **The National Authority for Road Safety** for our **front line service** in the battle against road fatalities. On **National Road Safety Day** the authority sponsored a nationwide presentation at Bar Ilan university. Among the elements noted was the **public service announcements** and informational campaigns that have proved to **help save lives** on the road.

Aside from the lectures, the authority also brought a **crushed car** to the university to visually represent the **danger of road accidents**. The hundreds of participants were then treated to a **mock rescue** that helped portray the challenges that modern cars present to rescue services when attempting to **extricate a trapped individual from a crumpled vehicle**.

Photo of the Week

This week **Amir Goldstein**, Tel Aviv coordinator of the bicycle division was moderately injured when he was struck by a moped on his way to an emergency call.



Medic of the Week

Avi Weinreich (pictured above loading a critically burned child onto a military medevac chopper) is well known around Tzefat for being among the first at almost every call. This month Avi was recognized by United Hatzalah as Medic of the Month. He and his wife will enjoy an all expense paid weekend getaway sponsored by *Har Even Tours*.



Thank you to all who have given us the opportunity to continue our work. We hope you will continue to support us in the future.

United Hatzalah is the largest emergency rescue volunteer organization in Israel which, working hand in hand with MDA has the endorsement of the leading Rabbis in Israel.

United Hatzalah has branches in almost every city in Israel from the Golan Heights in the north to Eilat in the south.