



## United Hatzalah of Israel

### *Highlights of the week in Israel*

26 February 2009

*Dear Friends and Supporters,*

This week we focus on a pair of near misses and I am not even referring to the daily missile strikes in the south. United Hatzalah medics were on scene in record time. In one incident even as the event unfolded. In addition, we open our doors to more agencies who wish to collaborate with us to help United Hatzalah save lives.

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

**Eli Beer**

Chief coordinator

---

### Bus vs Horse

The call was frightening. Apparently a pedestrian was struck by a bus and mortally wounded. The driver of the bus lost control of the vehicle and crashed off the road. United Hatzalah medics from nearby Netivot raced to the scene. Memories of the Eilat bus tragedy was fresh in the minds of all the United Hatzalah medics in the southern region.

In the pitch black night it was hard for the first responding medics to make sense of the scene. No evidence of an accident was visible from the road until stragglers who had made their way off the bus reached the road surface. They directed the rescuers to the bus. Someone asked about the pedestrian and were directed towards a horse in its death throes.

Walking away from the equine fatality the rescuers focused their attention on the human victims of the unfortunate interaction between bus and beast. The bus had in fact veered off the road but the recent rains had softened the dirt thus slowing the bus and preventing a rollover. Five passengers from the bus required medical attention for assorted scrapes and bruises. All in all, there were none seriously injured other than unfortunate horse.



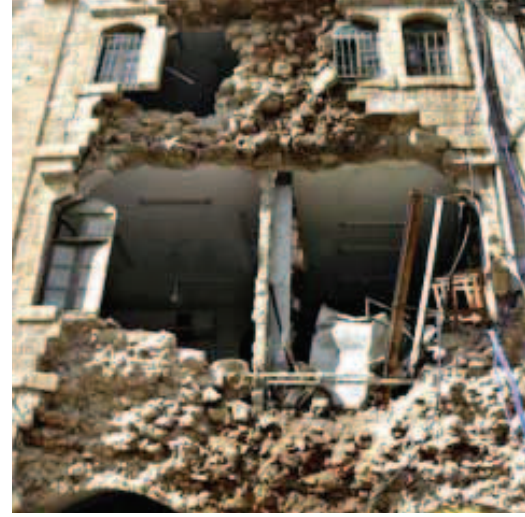
## Facade of Danger

It was supposed to be a simple family visit for a United Hatzalah medic. Getting out his car the medic saw his wife frantically pointing across the street just as he heard the crash of falling bricks and mortar.

Carefully herding his frightened family to safety the medic turned his attention to the building immediately to his left. A section of the facade had tumbled down revealing the ancient arched structure upon which it had been built.

Even from the rear view of the building the medic was aware that it held a school with over 300 students. Adroitly multi-tasking, the medic called for more resources, instructed the school to evacuate the building and blocked off the narrow road. During the evacuation from the front of the building, additional sections of the rear facade continued to rain down.

Miraculously, no one was injured, though the United Hatzalah medics had their hands full trying to help calm the hundreds of frightened students. The city engineer was amazed that the floor hadn't caved in due to the loss of the side supports.



---

## MVA Trauma, Prevention and Treatment

This week Mr. Yair Dori, Director of the National Authority for Road Safety visited United Hatzalah's Moskowitz Command Center with Professor Avi Rivkind, United Hatzalah's Medical Director and Head of the Department of Surgery and Shock Trauma Unit Hadassah Medical Center. The purpose of the meeting was to review previous successful joint public service safety campaigns and to discuss future collaborative efforts.

Professor Rivkind explained to Mr. Dori that the speed and efficacy of the initial treatment that a trauma victim receives from United Hatzalah medics in the field has a direct impact on the ability of the victim to survive and the extent of his/her recovery. However, the most effective response to trauma is United Hatzalah's public service announcements and educational campaigns that prevent the incidents from happening in the first place. Visibly impressed, Mr. Dori noted that "United Hatzalah medics are a national asset and need to be treasured as such".



---

**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.