



## United Hatzalah of Israel

# *Highlights of the week in Israel* 29 May 2008

*Dear Friends and Supporters,*

This week was a busy one for our volunteers. Lag BaOmer, with all its outings and bonfires, generated a spike in calls for emergency assistance.

Whether it be the myriad of neighborhood bonfires or the massive celebrations in the northern city of Meron United Hatzalah volunteers were on the scene. There were over 180 calls during the celebrations at Meron and hundreds more throughout the country.

On behalf of the volunteers and all of the celebrants we would like to thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you a quiet week.

Sincerely,

**Eli Beer**

Chief coordinator

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## **Meron - Mission “Lag BaOmer 2008”**

23.05.08

Dozens of volunteers provided emergency medical response in over 180 calls during the Lag BaOmer celebrations at the Grave of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai. With impressive inter-agency

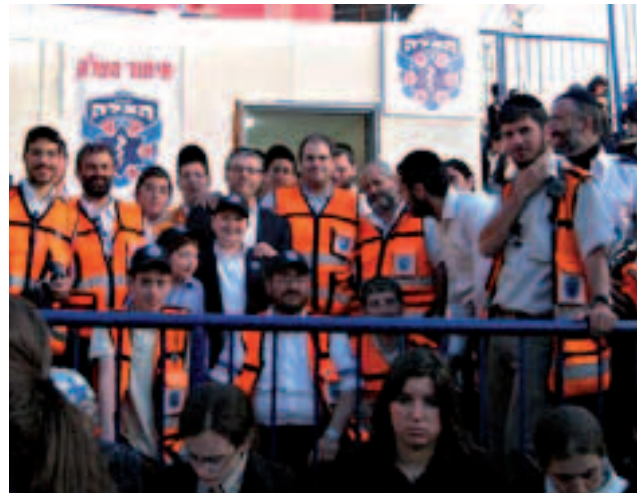
planning and cooperation, units of the police, IDF, MDA and United Hatzalah helped secure the site for an estimated 500,000 people. Volunteers from all over the country converged on the site and surrounding area. On the roads in the vicinity, volunteers responded to car accidents most of which were thankfully minor. Most of the calls were in response to people fainting due to the oppressive heat and the stress of large crowds. There was one incident where a young man collapsed and despite the rapid response from a nearby crew and over 30 minutes of intensive efforts doctors had to call off resuscitation efforts.

The main mission came to a halt with the onset of Shabbat and the lessening of the crowds but our Galilee branch maintained a unit on-site throughout the Shabbat. Kudos to Nachi Klein and Gilad Chanon from the Galilee branch for all of their dedicated work in planning and executing this complex mission. In





addition, special thanks to Chezi Roth, from Jerusalem, for setting up our brand-new command and control center and all the specialized equipment.



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## And yet again... another multi-fatality car accident

25.05.2008



The area of Route 443 in the Modiin area, near Route 1, was the scene of yet another multi-fatality car accident. A car containing illegal workers from the West Bank was speeding away from a police search when it struck a bus. The 4 workers in the back of the vehicle were killed immediately and the driver and front seat passenger were seriously wounded. 3 people on the bus were lightly injured as well.

United Hatzalah first responders from Modiin Illit and nearby Kfar Chabad were among the first to reach the scene. They treated those who they were able to and assisted in the extraction and recovery of the deceased. One of the volunteers noted that «the tragedies on the road know no discrimination, and neither does our response and treatment».



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## MCI in Petach Tikvah - On the scene

25.05.2008

A MCI (Mass Casualty Incident) call was issued in Petach Tikva this week due to a structure fire in a hi-rise apartment building with many children and elderly residents. Many United Hatzalah volunteers converged on the scene to assist the Fire and Rescue teams with evacuation and treatment of the residents. The speed and professionalism of the responding crews was credited with keeping the toll of victims down to 9 people requiring further treatment at the hospitals.



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## Eilat - Between Heaven and Earth

27.05.2008

Given the allure of the raw beauty of the cliffs in Israel's southern region many tourists and inexperienced climbers find themselves in desperate need of assistance from United Hatzalah's southern region rescue team. Avi Chenu, Coordinator of the Negev and Eilat division, led his team in a challenging mountain rescue refresher course to ensure that our volunteers are always prepared to respond rapidly and professionally to any call. Great Job Avi!



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**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.