

7/11/2010

## MDA TAKES PART IN EMERGENCY DRILL AT BEN GURION AIRPORT

Monday (01/11/2010): About Magen 100 ambulances, with 300 medics and paramedics on board, took part in exercise "Yasur" held at Ben Gurion airport. Simulating the scenario of a plane crash, the exercise was intended to test the activation of emergency procedures by all participating services. Exercise "Yasur" also included the surprise elements of aircraft debris falling onto congested urban areas close to Ben Gurion Airport.

Magen David Adom vehicles and personnel participated in the exercise together with the airport authority, the Israel Police Force, the IDF, the Fire Brigade and other bodies in carrying out emergency protocols as set for such an incident.

The exercise began when at 10:00am when forces working in the field received a message about an emergency situation regarding an aircraft about to land at Ben Gurion Airport. A plane crash on the runway was now to be simulated.

Magen David Adom immediately prepared deal with any number of wounded and to evacuate them as quickly as possible.

"This exercise stood, first and foremost, as a test of the cooperation between all the rescue and command forces in actual time, and also the capability of MDA in treating a very large number of victims in a short time," said Eli Bin, MDA Director General. "Those in charge of the MDA forces were asked to find solutions to extreme situations in air traffic accidents which could occur within the airport vicinity and in additional places in the nearby cities, as a result of falling aircraft debris".





## French Friends of MDA Set Up Branch on Riviera

Friday (22/10/2010): President of the Friends of MDA in France, Dr. Lazar Kaplan, has announced the establishment of a branch in the city of Nice. The branch, which will be headed by Dr. Bruno Lalouche, a senior plastic surgeon, will promote Magen David Adom and its work in the "Cote d'Azur" area.

Dr. Lalouch, who is well known for his love and activity for the State of Israel, gladly agreed to take on this task, understanding the importance of saving lives in Israel. Around him, he is gathering supporters and the new branch's activities will soon begin. Dr. Kaplan, President of the Friends of MDA in France, in stressing the importance of helping Magen David Adom in a period of financial crisis, said, "At this time, we're obliged to develop and spread to new places and markets in order to help Magen David Adom with its activities and development". From the French Desk of Magen David Adom we learn that "the French organization fully understands the needs of Magen David Adom and, in order to help the organization fulfil its many tasks, the organization is opening new branches. The aims that Dr. Kaplan set out for the Director of the new branch will help MDA to save lives in Israel". Situated in southern France, the branch in Nice joins the Marseilles branch which has increased its activities in recent years. This will make Provence region an important factor in aiding Magen David Adom in Israel.

## THE TRUE VALUE OF VOLUNTEER "FIRST-RESPONDERS"

In small towns and out-of-the-way villages, the importance of active volunteers is increasing. The very existence of dedicated volunteer "First-Responders" often makes the difference between life and death.

In Netivot, located about half an hour's drive from the nearest large city, Beer Sheva, the presence of volunteer "First- Responders" made the difference between life and death for the local school's headmaster. The man, 59, suddenly collapsed in front of the shocked members of the school staff and pupils.

The settlement's only regularly manned ambulance was already on a call. So, Shai Dan, a volunteer "First-Responder", received the call and arrived on the scene within minutes. He began administering basic CPR.

At the same time, activating the reserve ambulance parked at the MDA the station, additional volunteers to the scene to assist Shai.

With the help of a defibrillator, provided recently thanks to a donation, the members of the team continued with the resuscitation whilst giving electric shocks.

Eventually, the MICU team arrived. They continued with advanced CPR and then transported the patient to hospital in a stable condition, breathing independently.

Shai, who is a 35 year old volunteer, married with 4 children and studying in a Kollel (Talmudic college) in the city, tells of life in the distant station. "The station is like small family. Each and every one of the workers and volunteers cares about each other. Everyone comes to family affairs of all the workers and volunteers", he said. "At our station, there is no difference between the religious and non-religious. Everyone works together to save patients".

There is no doubt that Shai and his friends are a wonderful example of the spirit of volunteering which is found amongst the volunteers and workers of MDA.

# JEWISH DOCTORS FROM FRANCE HEAR FROM MDA PARAMEDIC

During the past week, a conference of the Rambam organization took place in Eilat. The organization unites, under its banner, hundreds of Jewish doctors from all over France. This year, the conference dealt with medical ethics and Judaism. A representative of Magen David Adom was invited to give a lecture at the conference and to present an overview of, what they have called, "the organization that saves lives in Israel"

Shalom Galil, a Paramedic in MDA Jerusalem, who trains many people within the framework of the activities of the French Desk, flew to Eilat to lecture to the group of doctors in the Herods Hotel. There, he joined medics Alon Kakon and Meidan Ben Yohash who, together, participated in the lecture and the presentation of the ambulances which followed.

One hundred and fifty doctors gathered together in the Kings Hall and enjoyed the lecture which Shalom had prepared last summer for the journey he made throughout French communities.

Spellbound from the start, the audience became emotional upon hearing the short stories featured throughout the lecture. Those present were full of appreciation and praise for the work of the "First-Responders" and for the swiftness of response by the emergency rescue teams of Magen David Adom.

Following the lecture, all participants were shown over two ambulances which were parked in the courtyard outside the hotel. The trainers from the French Desk showed all the vehicles' features, including the monitor, drugs and medical equipment.

Despite their many questions and the interest shown, the conference proceedings had to go on. However, the trainers invited the many doctors to visit Magen David Adom whenever the next opportunity presented itself.

The French Desk reports that the Rambam organization is an important body in the Jewish and medical community in France. They have a great appreciation for the work of Magen David Adom in Israel and abroad and, over the last few years, links between our organizations have strengthened. In the future, additional joint activities are planned.



# AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH TRADE UNION LEADERS VISIT MDA

Tuesday (19/10/2010): Fourteen trade union leaders from Australia and Great Britain visited MDA's Tel Aviv Station in a visit coordinated by the Department of Foreign Affairs of the New Workers' Union together with the help of Ms. Doreen Gerson of the Israel Information Centre in Manchester. (Ms Gerson's office is next door to that of Richard Simon from the Friends of MDAUK.)

The New Workers' Union was represented by Ms. Ada Kramersky, who is responsible for the MDA file in the Union. Mr. Ozer Leifer, head of the MDA Workers' Committee and Deputy Manager of the Finance and Purchasing Department, welcomed the visitors and provided an overview of how the workers' union cooperates with management with the aim of improving the lot of MDA workers, their education and their working conditions.

Ms. Glynis Lipson, President of the Friends of MDA in Melbourne, Australia, also welcomed the visitors and stressed the importance of their visit.

The Director of MDA's International Department explained to the visitors how MDA is structured, the importance of the support its Friends of MDA Societies around the world (especially that from the Friends of MDA in the UK and in Australia) in helping to develop MDA's services, the activities of its volunteers, its huge investment in education and operational training, and MDA's unique status – that of being a national public agency - not run by government – working in the fields of emergency medicine, blood services and as a member of the International Red Cross.

MDA's preparedness for dealing with emergency incidents and the experience that the organisation has acquired in responding to multi-casualty Incidents and terrorist activities were also stressed.



# A BLOOD DONATION EXERCISE

Sunday (31/10/2010): MDA, in conjunction with the IDF Blood Services and the Bnei Brak municipality, carried out a widespread exercise for the collection blood in times of emergency. During the exercise, IDF Reserve soldiers and teams who collect blood from the MDA Blood Services, this time collected blood for special purposes.

Many places were prepared to receive blood donations in the Beit Yaakov Seminary in Bnei Brak (50 Hazon Ish Street), which was chosen to host the exercise. The exercise began at 15:00 and ended at 22:30.

The purpose of the exercise was intended to replicate an emergency situation during which very many pints of blood would need to be collected within a short space of time. Within MDA, be prepared for such a situation is important not only for times of war, but also for efficient and effective action in times of disaster, terrorist attacks or multi-casualty incidents.

During the exercise, the Deputy Minister of Health, Rabbi Yaakov Lizman, the Chief Officer of the Home Front, MDA Director-General, Eli Bin, the Chief Medical Officer and senior members of staff of the Bnei Brak municipality visited the scene.

Eli Bin, MDA Director General said, "I see tremendous importance in such a large exercise., There is no doubt that, at a time of need, the capability of taking blood will stand the test. We must be certain that we can respond in the best possible manner at such times."

