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## MDA IS PREPARED TO SEND A DELEGATION TO HAITI

**AN EARTHQUAKE MEASURING 7 ON THE RICHTER SCALE STRUCK HAITI EARLY THIS MORNING \* IN COOPERATION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE RED CROSS MOVEMENT IT WAS DECIDED IN MDA TO SEND A DELEGATION TO HELP AT THE SCENE OF THE DISASTER**

Following the severe earthquake which struck Haiti at about 2:00 this morning, MDA Director General, Eli Bin, gave orders to the department managers to get ready to send a delegation of specialists from Magen David Adom, in order to evaluate the needs for help in Haiti.

The delegation will work in cooperation with the American Red Cross and its members will evaluate the needs and medical treatments on site. In addition, they will set up field clinics, together with the local emergency teams and the Red Cross and will help in tracing those who are missing.

In MDA the possibility is being examined of sending a medical team including doctors, paramedics and medics, who will join the other medical teams such as that of the IDF.

MDA Director General pointed out that: "In the 85 years of its existence, Magen David Adom has proved its capabilities of sending delegations to areas hit by natural disasters as well as terrorist attacks, to help the population in distress in tens of different places around the world: to those affected by the drought in Uganda, to those suffering starvation in Biafra, Colombia and Ethiopia, to those left without parents in Jakarta in Indonesia, to the survivors of the strong earthquake that struck Turkey, and in El Salvador and India, to those who suffered when the volcano erupted in Congo, to those hit by the floods in Indonesia, the Polynesian Islands and Haiti, and those injured in the hurricane in Guatemala, and those wounded by the cyclone that hit Myanmar and the wounded in the tsunami disaster in Sri Lanka. Since it joined the International Movement of the Red Cross as a full member in 2006, Magen David Adom takes part in its international activities all over the world and makes available when needed, the best of its paramedics and doctors who have gained and built up tremendous experience in coping with events such as this".

### **Radio HAM, Israel radio amateurs, have taken a key role in on line reports on the Haiti earthquake disaster.**

When standard communications were off, radio amateurs have been the only link with the devastated island. Capital decisions on how to forward relief have followed their report and Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as MDA are depending on them.

MDA Director General Eli Bin has stressed the importance of a continuous relation with the national organization of radio amateurs to keep abreast of all catastrophes.

MDA paramedic Ohad Shaked, in charge of MDA Earthquake preparedness initiated the contact between MDA and the radio amateurs association and at present is MDA liaison officer at Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs Situation Room.



# AN MDA STATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF ISFIYA AND DALIYAT AL- KARMEL

At a meeting that took place in MDA Headquarters it was decided to establish an MDA station for the 50,000 residents of Isfiya and Daliyat Al Karmel. The initiative for this was taken by the Deputy Minister of the Development of the Negev and the Galilee, Ayoob Kara.

After many efforts by the Deputy Minister of the Development of the Negev and the Galilee, Ayoob Kara pushing for the opening of an MDA station for the villages & communities of Isfiya and Daliyat All Karmel, the Deputy Minister Kara, MDA Director General Eli Bin, the Head of the Local Authority of Isfiya, Mr. Wajah Kauof and the Head of the Local Authority of Daliyat Al Karmel Mr. Karmel Naseralden, met together in the offices of MDA. At the end of the meeting it was decided that an MDA station would be opened at the beginning of next month. The station is expected to serve about 50,000 inhabitants, with full cooperation between the Local Authorities and MDA.

Deputy Minister of the Development of the Negev and the Galilee, Ayoob Kara:

"We are today reaping the fruits of the cooperation between the Heads of the Local Authorities, Mr. Kauof and Mr. Naseralden and MDA Director General, Eli Bin, as a result of which the station will serve the inhabitants of the region and the many hikers and visitors coming to the area at weekends. This is the first sign of cooperation between the Local Authorities and I promise to continue helping them wherever possible".

MDA has been active for a long time in the area and already has set up an active core of MDA youth volunteers. "Our plan is not only to open an MDA station, but also to attract and cooperate with the residents of the area by giving courses in life saving activities, collecting blood and increasing the number of volunteers" said MDA Director General Eli Bin, and added "in the last few years MDA has been working to advance its' services amongst the minority populations and has opened 10 MDA stations there for the benefit of the local population and villages & communities of the area".

The Deputy Minister added to this: "The activities of the MDA Director General in the periphery and amongst the different elements of the population in Israel are very positive for the future of the State and all its inhabitants, and for that we must show our thanks and appreciation".



# ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE IDF SPOKESMAN – TOP SECRET

An exercise "Orange Flame" held by the Home Front in cooperation with the Ministry of Health will start on January 13, 2010 in the Dan Region

Today (Wednesday) 27th Tevet 5770, 13th January 2010, the exercise "Orange Flame" will start. The exercise will simulate the eventuality of a biological incident in the Dan Region and will be led by the Home Front and the Ministry of Health. Amongst the forces taking part in the exercise: the national emergency authority, Tel Aviv City Hall, the Health Funds, "Sheba" Hospital, "Wolfson" Hospital, "Ichilov" Hospital, Magen David Adom, the Israel Police Force and the National Institute for Legal Medicine.

The IDF Spokesman stresses that the exercise, which is taking place for the fourth year running, was planned in advance as part of the training plan for 2010. The medical department of the Home Front, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Defence and all the groups taking part in the exercise have worked hard over the last few months planning the exercise.

The purpose of the exercise is to improve the preparedness, readiness and response of all the medical organizations in the Dan Region, both civilian and military, for times of emergency. The response is based on inter organizational coordination and joint activities. During the exercise the different systems will be examined and different discrepancies will be traced which the exercise is meant to flood and later on to solve.

The scenario of the exercise is a secret for all those taking part and the behaviour during the exercise will be as if in a true incident. The systems being examined will have to trace the source of the incident and act in the same way as they would in times of emergency.

The exercise will combine exercising administration staff and those in the field in various scenarios, which will be activated by the Ministry of Health and the Home Front. The exercise is a two day event and will take place on the 13-14 January 2010 between the hours of 8:00 - 20:00.

During the exercise, on Wednesday, 13th January 2010, between 08:30-16:00 and on Thursday, 14th January 2010, between 9:00-14:00, field exercises will be held that will simulate different scenarios in the three hospitals in the Dan Region and in the Centres for those injured which will be set up at the Country Club in Holon, in the Stadium in Ramat Gan and in "Beit Dani" in the Hatikva Quarter in Tel Aviv.

The Home Front, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, will continue to busy itself with improving the readiness of all the medical organizations for times of emergency by exercising those working in the field and those in the offices, on a national level. Preplanned activity of the Health System in the community and the units of the Home Front are essential for medical aid and for the continuation of normal life during times of emergency.

# First Responder Varshilovsky Edward

I am a Paramedic, with a licence to work on the Intensive Care Unit without a doctor, working in the Sharon Region. I also act as a First Responder sent out to calls by the MIRS of the First Responder Unit.

On 10.12.2009 I received a call from the Sharon Dispatch Centre about a fire with people trapped in two apartments. I went out on the call after receiving information from the MIRS of the First Responder Unit. At the scene I treated 4 victims, 2 of whom were then transferred to hospital. All were lightly injured having possibly inhaled smoke. After completing the treatment I helped search the apartments to see whether there were further victims.

About two hours later a call was received about a man who had collapsed in the Central Bus Station in Hadera. The nearest Mobile Intensive Care Unit available set out from Netanya. I went out on this call after receiving a message on the MIRS. When I arrived on the scene, the team of the regular ambulance also arrived. Together we began carrying out BLS (Basic Life Support) and attached the patient to a semi automatic Life Pak machine. A shock was given, and I opened up an intravenous line. After the shock we continued with 2 minutes of CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) and I saw that a spontaneous pulse had returned. When the MICU arrived the patient had started breathing again on his own, in addition to the return of his pulse and blood pressure.

With best wishes and Chag Sameach,  
Varshilovsky Edward.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF A DEFIBRILLATOR

Oded (Udi) is aged 50 and a volunteer since 1975 in Magen David Adom, Carmel Region. In addition to shifts that he does on the Mobile Intensive Care Unit from time to time in Yokneam and in Haifa, Udi serves as a First Responder who immediately responds to calls.

Within the framework of his work as a self employed builder, Udi moves around the whole country and has been involved more than once in incidents as a First Responder. Recently, during a work meeting in the chemical factories in the Bay of Haifa, whilst sitting over business plans with customers, shouts were heard from the operations area: "Is there a medic here?"

Udi did not hesitate, cut the meeting short and ran to help. When he reached the patient he found a man of about 52 lying on the floor, not breathing and pulseless.

Udi immediately started CPR, and after a number of minutes the patient's pulse returned and he even woke up. Udi used the time to send someone to bring his First Responder's equipment that he always has with him, and gave the patient oxygen and took his vital signs.

Unfortunately, after a number of minutes, the patient again lost consciousness and Udi was forced to start CPR again. A nurse, who works permanently at the factory, brought along a semi automatic defibrillator machine which, immediately after being connected to the patient, gave 2 electric shocks.

The Mobile Intensive Care Unit team that arrived on the scene continued with prolonged CPR and in the end transported the patient in critical condition to hospital. Until this day, whenever Udi comes to the factory as part of his work, the people remind him of his actions and resourcefulness.

# REPORT ON THE JOURNEY TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH KOREA 11-24.11.2009

An international course on disaster management took place in South Korea between 11-24.11.2009 under the auspices of NEMA (The national disaster management organisation of the South Korean government) and ISDR (The organisation for disaster readiness of the United Nations).

The course dealt with the subject of disasters occurring as a result of the changes in climate in the world, ways of handling the results of the disasters and possible ways of prevention with stress on the local level.

14 countries took part in the course: Lebanon, Kuwait, Jordan, Iran, Ghana, Sudan, Kirgistan, Mongolia, China, Colombia, Peru, Paraguay, South Korea and Israel.

The course was entirely funded by the South Korean Government.

Lectures were given by the best lecturers in Asia:

1. Ph.D. Park Yeon-soo - Head of the national disaster management organisation hosted the course in the national situations room and showed how decisions are made in accordance with facts received from the different information systems, road systems, cameras, sensors on bridges etc. The lecture dealt with activating the national situations room under the leadership of the Prime Minister, how decisions are made and how they are monitored to see that they are being carried out.
2. Ph.D. Scott Cuniffe - Director of the Asian and Pacific Desk in the department for preparedness for disasters at the United Nations. The lectures dealt with the changes of climate in the world, the activities of the United Nations to assess and prepare for disasters in cooperation with the governments and emergency organizations.
3. Professor Gang, Byung Hwa - expert in assessing disasters, lectured on the method of assessing the disasters as is done in Korea and the rationale in examining the extent of the disaster as an integral part of the preparedness. The lecture showed the method of assessment carried out after the disaster, the scale of the extent of the disaster and the reaction to the disaster in the light of the assessment carried out at all levels.
4. Prof. Chang, Ki Tae - expert in technological observation and interpretation. She lectured on the importance of sensors and an early warning system which allows one to warn the inhabitants of an impending disaster especially when talking about a natural disaster such as a tsunami or typhoon.
5. Professor Yun, Yongsun - expert on rehabilitation after disasters explained the importance of having plans in advance for rehabilitation whilst repairing faults for the long term so that one can cope better with the next disaster.
6. Dr. Shin, Sangyung - expert in regulation and coordination of preparedness for disasters within cities dealt with preparedness on the local level and the need for a change in the law in a range of fields to prevent disasters on the one hand and to deal on the local level with disasters that have occurred on the other hand.
7. Dr. Jung, Junchul - the national seismological institute of South Korea explained about the cooperation between the professional level of seismologists and the advanced equipment available to them with the authorities at different levels in order to reduce damage.
8. Mr. Kim, Bu Saeng - building up of emergency teams on the regional levels, in the cities and outlying districts – showed how teams were set up in the villages and cities to cope with disasters after different disasters were studied and it was found that the professional teams hardly helped

with the rescue and treatment of the victims.

9. Dr. Jung, gil Ho – Specialist in assessment of earthquakes dealt with how Korea deals with earthquakes and showed the national observation system which allows one to see within minutes the damage that has occurred and to send suitable teams to help on the regional level.
10. Dr. Jung, gil Ho – specialist in assessing disasters as a result of climate change showed the changes in climate and their results with regard to disasters in the field of flood, rise in the sea level, torrential rains, snow storms, typhoons and tsunamis.
11. Mr. Joo ,Wooyung – specialist in insurance for natural disasters explained the governmental and private insurance for natural disasters and the possibility of swift assessment of the costs of the insurance and methods of transferring money to the victims immediately so that they can rehabilitate themselves.
12. Dr. Jung, gal ho – head of the national situations room for disasters showed the situations room and the technological aids available to him in order to make decisions and also how the Prime Minister and professional managers in the field of disaster management come to decisions.
13. Mr. Park Yung Yom – Manager of the assessment field for changes in climate reviewed the assessments of the Government of Korea of disasters rising from changes in climate according to statistics gathered in Korea itself, in Asia and in the Pacific. These statistics were gathered to assess the risks and help to build up the plans for preparedness for disasters in the country.

In addition, professional lectures were given by engineers, those in charge and professionals in the field of disasters during the professional tours.

## **POSITIVE PRINCIPLES FOR ISRAEL AND MDA**

1. World climate changes are likely to also affect Israel. Israel is suffering from ongoing drought over the last few years. Changes in the amount of rain occurred in additional countries such as Colombia, where in 2008 instead of two rainy seasons there was only one which lasted all year. In Korea tourism was down drastically because of a rise in the sea level etc.
2. Changes in climate are likely to affect quality of life and even to cause disasters. The floods that occurred at the beginning of the winter in the Sharon region are not unusual. According to world experience there will be more and more incidents of heavy rain of 80 mm within 12 hours as well as heavy snow storms. The amount of rain falling in one go has increased considerably in comparison with the rains that fell during an entire winter.
3. The preparedness for disasters includes technological devices found in Israel on high levels and in use for other purposes. Educated use of technological satellite, computerized, cellular etc. facilities, will enable the setting aside of forces to carry out treatment at an incident in shorter time which will enable significant activity.
4. Activation of local and regional teams must be of importance as the importance of the community level is considerable for all types of disasters and can certainly help in Israel to deal with the situation whether it is in the case of man made disasters or natural disasters. In planning and activating the teams one must take into account special characteristics of the different communities.
5. It is necessary to define the levels of disaster according to the levels of destruction and damage. In Israel there is no definition for the level of disasters and there is not legal possibility of declaring a specific area as a disaster area as a result of a natural disaster.
6. It is necessary to train key people with advanced training at all levels in the framework of disaster management, prevention, response and rehabilitation and to do so we have to study further and learn from the experience of others.

# EVERY YEAR ON NEW YEAR'S EVE TENS OF DRUNK YOUNGSTERS ARE TAKEN BY MDA AMBULANCES TO HOSPITAL

Just before you kiss at midnight at the New Year's eve festive party, it is worth while remembering that even just one glass of alcohol can affect you. Every year, the MDA teams are very busy on New Year's eve – taking youngsters who are suffering from drinking too much alcohol – to the point of poisoning themselves – to the emergency room, transporting victims of fights and of course, those involved in road traffic accidents.

From MDA statistics referring to those transported as a result of alcohol, it is apparent that in 2009 MDA teams transported 5,055 people, most of them youngsters, the youngest of whom was a girl of 10 and two boys of 13.

Alcohol can have tragic consequences, especially amongst the youngsters who are not used to drinking and still do not know how much their body can absorb. More than once, MDA teams have transported to emergency rooms all over the country youngsters in critical condition and sometimes even unconscious as a result of excessive drinking of alcohol which can cause alcohol poisoning. Alcohol poisoning severely affects the brain and the different bodily systems and can even cause death.

In many instances MDA teams come up against youngsters suffering from alcohol poisoning as a result of excessive drinking at New Year's Eve parties and youngsters who have been severely injured in road

accidents involving a drunken driver. One glass of alcohol affects the motor function and all essential senses during driving. In addition, the alcohol affects concentration, judgement of distances and can even cause one to fall asleep at the wheel. Also, alcohol reduces clear vision, causing blurring and can affect coordination, which makes reaction time considerably slower. Alcohol also confuses feelings and intensifies the feeling of self confidence. A drunken driver is likely to take fatal risks which when sober he would not take.

MDA reminds the public that after drinking alcohol one should not drive and suggests traveling by taxi from the place of entertainment, as the safest way to reach home after the New Year's Eve celebrations rather than in an MDA ambulance going to the emergency room.

MDA Director General, Eli Bin, gave orders to reinforce the number of ambulances and medical teams working the shifts this evening.

