

1/7/2010

## FREE JOURNEY?

## TWO BABIES BORN IN A TAXI

During one shift, an MDA team from Ayalon Region delivered two babies whilst their mothers were being taken to hospital by taxi. Will the babies be entitled to free journeys for the rest of their lives? It is still unclear.

On the one day, an MDA team delivered two babies in a taxi. Last Wednesday, a call was received in the MDA Ayalon Dispatching Centre from a taxi driver who told the dispatcher that there was a woman in his taxi who was nine months pregnant, and about to give birth. Riki Karples, an MDA Paramedic, went out with the Intensive Care Unit to meet the taxi which was parked on the side of the 443 road.



Karples and her team delivered the baby and took her and her mother to "Bikur Cholim" Hospital in Jerusalem.

Only a few minutes later, and whilst the ambulance was turning into Haneviim Street in Jerusalem, Karples was astonished to hear another call on the communications system from a taxi driver who said that he, also, had a woman passenger in his car who was about to give birth. Without hesitation, the Paramedic ordered the ambulance driver to get to the woman as quickly as possible. A midwife from "Bikur Cholim", who had arrived on the scene, helped the MDA team with the delivery. Minutes later, another baby girl came into the world.

Riki Karples told Walla! News that this was not the first time that an Intensive Care Unit team had delivered a baby on the way to hospital - but it is still a very emotional event. Karples, who herself has two boys, added that "I was not emotional from the fact that I delivered the babies, nor that it was two girls. But it was very emotional for me to hold them and I felt very strange that I had delivered them in a taxi".

# SUMMER ACTIVITIES OF THE DELEGATION FROM THE FRENCH DESK IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN FRANCE

During the stay of the Magen David Adom representatives in the Jewish Communities of France, the members of the delegation came across a road traffic accident which obliged them to give help to the victims. Shalom Galil, a Magen David Adom Paramedic, describes in one of his updates, what actually happened:

"An interesting trip, here are a few words about an incident that we experienced last weekend.

Towards the end of our visit in the city of Lyons we were hosted for breakfast by the Friends of Magen David Adom in the city. During the French breakfast (for those who are not familiar with this, there are no cucumbers and tomatoes and nor will you find cottage cheese, only coffee and fresh croissants). Whilst we are chatting about the activities of Magen David Adom in Israel, we suddenly hear a familiar sound – the screeching of brakes and a loud boom! Our MDA intuition overcome our desire to eat and we ran to the balcony and from there we see such a familiar scene of two vehicles that had crashed into each other. Michael (a member of the delegation) and I look at each other with a look that says "this is our case" and we begin to run to the stairs in order to give first aid just as we have been trained in Magen David Adom.....Of course our host, who is deputy president of the local branch, joined us in our rush, not every day does he see an MICU team treating the wounded in live time!!!

On arrival, we found a woman of about 50 who had been involved in an accident with relatively severe kinetics, and with the side air bags opened up. To our relief the victim seemed to be okay at first sight. When we entered the car in order to lift the hand brake and to switch off the ignition, the woman, who was in great panic, looked at us and the skullcaps on our heads and in one moment calmed down and said: Oh you are wearing skullcaps, everything is okay.....a quick call to the Fire Brigade of Lyon, who are responsible here for the medical emergency services, and within a few minutes they arrive and continue with the primary treatment that we gave. Here we were able to see with our own eyes the methods used which are exclusive to France of Play and Stay when for a long time they strap up the victim and afterwards take him to hospital.



Tonight they have planned for us a shift with the Red Cross teams of Paris whom we met during the International Competition that took place in Israel at the beginning of the month, impressions will follow".



The evening before the accident the delegation visited the Neve Shalom synagogue in the city of Lyon and met there the distinguished local community. That same evening a lecture was given about the Humanitarian activities of Magen David Adom all over Israel and the rest of the world. As a result of the lecture there was a lot of interest shown about the exclusive activities of Magen David Adom in Haiti.



The delegation is continuing with its activities – details to follow.....

# “THE CHAIN OF SAVING LIFE” TO GO PUBLIC

The Ministry of Trade and Industry plans to place Defibrillators (Resuscitation machines) in public places.

The locations of these machines will be done such that, when used, they will automatically activate and dial to MDA thus ensuring continuity in the chain of saving life being - activating the machine, ordering the ambulance and transporting the patient to hospital.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry plans to introduce a law that will put defibrillators in public places, according to Chief Works Inspector, Yoram Elazari, speaking today at a meeting of the Knesset Committee for Work, Well Being and Health.

Yoram Elazari pointed out that defibrillators are not within the field of professional specialisation and authority of the Ministry of Trade and Industry and therefore the office is being aided by the professional services of MDA which is the humanitarian organisation responsible for saving lives.

The Chief Inspector added that any professional considerations involved in carrying this out are the responsibility of the Ministry of Health. It is that Ministry which is responsible for medical equipment and machinery. It is therefore also responsible for the registration of defibrillators and all the professional installations concerning all the types of machinery, their make up, quality, fulfilling standards, storage, maintenance and, ultimately, for declaring them unfit for use.

Yoram Elazari also stated that professional authorities in the field of cardiology maintain that using a defibrillator is part of “the chain of saving life” which starts by calling the emergency medical services and ends with advanced CPR treatment given by professional teams.

At the same time, the Ministry of Trade and Industry is working with the Ministry of Finance to obtain appropriate funding and to push through legislation which will authorise these reforms within three months.



# AT THE HEIGHT OF THE WEDDING: GRANDSON SAVES HIS GRANDMOTHER'S LIFE

Susan Manzil, an American who had come to Israel for a family wedding, collapsed in the wedding hall. Her grandson immediately started resuscitation procedures which included giving her an electric shock with a defibrillator, and within minutes she woke up. Her grandson, Yoni: "Such a machine needs to be available in every public place in Israel". The joyous wedding in Kibbutz Zor'ah ended in panic. Last Sunday, in the middle of the dance floor, 73 year old Susan Manzil, from Houston USA, collapsed. Within seconds, her grandson had started resuscitation procedures, including giving her an electric shock, and her life was saved. Yoni Jakobovits, a History and Political Science student, and a medic in the IDF reserves, was 20 meters away from his grandmother when he noticed that she was collapsing. "Within seconds I realised what was happening and raised her legs" he recalls. "I opened her airway and checked her consciousness level. She didn't react".

Within a minute, a doctor, a friend of the family, had joined him. Together, they began chest compression and ventilation for about four minutes. After that, another medic joined them to help with the CPR, and Jakobovits went to the owner of the hall who did not know what was happening. After six minutes of starting CPR, the hall owner brought an automatic defibrillator machine he had, which recognises heart arrhythmias and delivers an electric shock to the heart muscle. Attached the machine to the grandmother's body, the machine then gave instructions in Hebrew to activate the shock. In the meantime, an MDA team had arrived on the scene and the machine gave the order to administer a second shock. After two more minutes, the patient's pulse and breathing had returned. She was then taken by ambulance towards Shaarei Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem. Along the way, the MDA team met with the Intensive Care Unit to which she was transferred and then taken to hospital. "She was already showing signs of returning to consciousness in the ambulance", recalls Jakobovits. "By the time we had arrived at the emergency room, she was completely stable. When the incident occurred, I was very tense. One is not prepared for such a thing.

I understood that the owner of the hall had only recently acquired the defibrillator, and now I understand how important that is. There is no doubt that such a machine should be placed in every public place in the country". In the hospital, it was discovered that the woman had ventricular fibrillation - a situation in which the electrical activity of the heart is disturbed and the pulse is beating too quickly so that, ultimately, it is unable to provide enough blood to the body. She has now hospitalised in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit, and her condition is said to be good. Thanks to the swift CPR she received, she has suffered no brain damage and is now even walking unaided.

## MDA DM and EU Projects coordinator Chaim Ragalowski represented MDA at an international conference organized by the Lazio region (Rome) health authorities

Last month, Chaim Rafalowski was invited as speaker to an international conference organized by the Lazio region (Rome) health authorities, in order to compare different EMS services.

MDA was chosen as a model EMS services, that should be presented and studied. Chaim presented the human resource aspect - mainly training of staff and volunteers, financing the service and our helicopter program.



## Professional seminar training at MDA France

In May, a professional training "Magen David Adom France saves lives in Israel" was held at the MDA France headquarters in Paris.

It was attended by the President of the french Association, members of the National Committee, regional delegates, volunteers and staff of MDA France.

The seminar was held a Sunday, which contributed to the attendance of a larger number of participants.

The program of this course:

- The activities of the french association within the Jewish Community in France for the last years.
- Cooperation between MDA France and the french Desk of MDA Israel
- Professional fundraising in the activity of MDA France
- Objectives of the next three years
- Sharing of experiences between delegations

Representatives from MDA Israel took part in the organization of this training, particularly M. Dany Neuman, the new director of the International Department at MDA Israel, which made a presentation about « professional fundraising ».

Participants received documentation and information that will help them in their daily activities, and at the end of the seminar, they all received the book of eightieth anniversary of MDA Israel, in gratitude for their important contribution.

Dr. Lazare Kaplan, the president of MDA France, stressed on this occasion, the admirable work of the french association in the past. Today our challenge is intensified and seminars such as this one provides support and new impetus to carry out projects and future activities of quality.

# A SHIFT IN PARIS

Sunday 17:30

After a tour around the centre of Paris, we arrive at the regional headquarters of the Red Cross. After being warmly received, we go through a legal conversion, and put on the uniform of the Red Cross.....

The shift starts on our visit to SAMU.

A brief introduction to enable you to understand how the French deal with emergency medicine: Apart from the Red Cross, the Fire Brigade also gives BLS ambulance services.

SAMU (which is the unit attached to the hospitals) is responsible for ALS treatment, although the Fire Brigade also has some Mobile Intensive Care Units in the larger cities. Of course, each organisation has a different emergency number and a separate Dispatch Centre: SAMU has 15 and the Fire Brigade 18. There is an additional number, 112, which is the same for all over Europe (or nearly all). The call will be diverted to 15 or 18. Volunteers in the Red Cross are put in the BLS system, together with the Fire Brigade. They also have a separate Dispatch Centre.

When one calls the Dispatch Centre 18 – the Fire Brigade, the Dispatcher, who is a trained medic, decides to send out a standard ambulance. There is no GPS, no directions, they use maps. The team is made up of a driver and two medics. The equipment is basic, with a few nice additions such as a support mattress.

If necessary a Mobile Intensive Care Unit will be sent out, in coordination with the SAMU. The French MICU (called SMUR) has far reaching treatments: blood tests including enzymes, ultrasound and much more. The team includes a doctor, nurse, medic and driver.

Totally Stay and Play, the treatment of the patient is conducted whilst the doctor negotiates with the hospitals to get a bed.

At the # 15 Dispatch Centre of the SAMU, the dispatchers are less qualified, but the doctors will also decide whether to send a MICU or rather ask the Fire Brigade to send a standard ambulance or just to send the person to their family doctor.





We visited the regional SAMU Dispatch Centre and the MICU parked there. During the visit, our hosts, left us urgently, apparently something was happening in Paris. A violent demonstration between Asians and North Americans in the streets of Paris was happening. The level of readiness went up.

The Red Cross decides to set up a control centre nearby and begins calling up people "in order to be prepared".

Have you tried carrying out emergency journeys in Paris? It is heaven. The head of the team had complete authority to decide, does not need to report, does

not need any permission, they simply go. The behaviour and cooperation of the people is worthy of praise. They do their best to allow a smooth journey for the teams.

Also the police increased their presence, and police of all types begin to flow to the scene (it appears that there are a few types).

Despite the violent character of the demonstration, the police at the scene decide to spread out their forces to sites further afield. They prefer to allow things to settle by themselves. Return to normal for the medical teams, without reducing the level of readiness.

This allows us to continue with our plans: a shift on the ambulance. We come to the Fire Brigade Command centre and man an ambulance.

First case:

No clear description, we come to a man, standing in the street. He does not speak French or any other language but Arabic. The Red Cross volunteers give up, until Shalom starts a conversation in Arabic with the man, to the amazement of the team.

It appears that the man fled from Iraq, traveled through Turkey and arrived in France as an illegal immigrant. In this way, MDA Paris treated an Iraqi citizen who was very grateful and kissed our hands.

Second Case:

An accident between a car and motorbicycle, where the car won. The victim, a delivery boy from a Chinese restaurant, was lightly wounded. The team begins to treat him, whilst the driver worries about the safety of the team and marks the area out with triangles.

A short diagnosis, and the patient is attached to the special support mattress. The treatment is carried out at the French pace, waiting for the Police, the Police arrive, checks, asks questions, investigates, carries out an alcohol test.....The patient is still lying there. After about 25 minutes he is taken to hospital.

Thus ends a shift in Paris.

Michael Atlan

MDA Volunteer on a mission in Paris