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A FIRST FOR THE MDA OLYMPICS!

CARMEL REGION TEAMS WON BOTH COMPETITION TITLES

The 3rd International MDA Olympics ended on Wednesday 9th June with an impressive closing ceremony held in the Churchill Hall of Haifa's Technion campus. For the first time, two teams from the same region took first place in both categories of the competition.

MDA Carmel Region teams won both the "Best Standard (BLS) Ambulance Team in the World" and "Best Intensive Care Unit Team in the World" categories. This is the second year in a row that the Carmel Region team has taken out the Intensive Care title.

The success of the MDA Olympics was the result of over half a year of intensive planning. Fourteen countries sent 181 medics and paramedics forming 18 teams. MDA Regions entered 22 teams and the IDF sent 5 teams.

In the competition heats for participants from abroad, the Spanish standard (BLS) ambulance team and the Intensive Care Unit team from Canada took first place.

Carmel Region Director, Shimon Biton, who accompanied the teams throughout the competition, did not hide his emotions at the exceptional results. "The MDA Carmel Region teams who took part in the competition proved themselves for the second time. They showed that they are the very best both in Israel and abroad".

Assaf Dayan, head of the winning BLS ambulance team said, "We are delighted that, at the end of these strenuous days filled with challenges, we have achieved our goal. Our teams had the support of our entire Region".

The winning teams:

The Intensive Care Unit team:

Paramedic Toufik Basul, Paramedic Eran Zisman, senior medic Muchmad Taabash and medic Dor Biton.

The BLS ambulance team:

Senior medic Assaf Dayan, senior medic Ofer Vinik, medic Chen Landy and medic Ronen Shalom.



Pictures: Asi Dvilanski, Amos Dadon, Carmel Region Spokesman's office.

TURKEY PULLS OUT OF MDA OLYMPICS

Turkey's delegation, comprising four doctors and paramedics, has withdrawn from this year's "MDA Olympics", an annual competition involving medical teams from around the world.

Informed of the decision to withdraw three days ago, a spokesperson for MDA said that "they have decided to cancel for their own reasons and MDA is very sad at their decision".

Eleven Ways to Saving Lives

Starting today (Sunday), fifty medical teams from around the world began competing for the title of "The Very Best Rescue Team".

Challenges that confront the teams include the rescue of a paratrooper caught in a treetop, administering first-aid to a woman about to give birth, and treating wounded "victims" in a cowshed. During the three days of competition, medical teams will need to demonstrate their professional capabilities to save lives and treat the injured within eleven different categories.

This year's competition sees the participation of twenty delegations from abroad including medical teams from Jordan, China and Panama - all of whom have very close working links with Israel's national rescue organisation. Medical teams from the different IDF units will also take part in the competition.

Participating teams will have the quality and professionalism of their treatment tested over two rounds - each comprising five situations, to which will be added a special night-time exercise. During that exercise, teams will need to deal with a sudden, unexpected situation which will test their ingenuity in finding solutions to emergency situations under difficult field conditions.

Mount Gilboa, the Carmel forests, the coastal city of Haifa and even a cowshed in the Carmel Region will feature as venues for the contests.

The closing ceremony, during which the winning teams in the different categories will be announced, will take place on Wednesday, 9th June, at the Technion in Haifa.

MDA CARMEL REGION TEAMS PERFORM A RECORD NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL RESUSCITATIONS IN THE PAST MONTH



"Come quickly to Arlozoroff Street in Haifa", screamed a man on the other end of the line to the MDA Dispatching Centre. His wife was unconscious in bed next to him.

A Mobile Intensive Care Unit was rushed to the scene and carried out successful resuscitation procedures on the 46 year old woman. After her pulse had returned, she was transferred to hospital.

This was by no means, a "one-off" incident. Of all the patients attended to by MDA teams, and found to be unconscious, one-third were saved thanks to the resuscitation procedures carried out on them by MDA personnel.

Statistics show that MDA Carmel Region teams carried out 14 successful resuscitations in Haifa, the Krayot, Tirat Carmel and Kiryat Tivon. Eight of these were performed on women and the rest on men. The youngest patient was 40 year old man who had collapsed at work in Tirat Carmel, and a woman who had collapsed at home in Haifa.

Many patients, aged between the ages of 40-60 who had suddenly collapsed, had no pulse and were not breathing. Most were as a result of a severe heart attack.

Three resuscitations were carried out on patients who collapsed whilst swimming at supervised beaches during the morning.

The Paramedic in charge of the Carmel Region, Erez Geller, stresses the importance of carrying out early resuscitation procedures by those present at the scene. "Many research projects have proved that basic and advanced CPR carried out by those present on the scene, before the arrival of the ambulance, have improved the patient's chances of survival".

By carrying out CPR, the activity of the heart and respiration is imitated in a mechanical manner in order to maintain a sufficient supply of oxygen to the brain. When the MDA Mobile Intensive Care Unit arrives on the scene, more advanced treatment is performed including monitoring, administering drugs intravenously (IV), intubation, and electric shock treatment to regulate the heart rhythm.

The Director of the Carmel Region, Shimon Biton, calls on the public to take a CPR course through MDA. "We have learned that, with simple actions, it is possible to save lives. On numerous occasions we have met citizens who have undertaken an MDA CPR course and, by their decisive, simple and correct actions, they have saved the lives of family members and friends".

MDA: Beware! Jellyfish are back again!

MDA Dispatching centres are receiving many calls from bathers, all along the coast, complaining of a burning sensation caused by jellyfish.

Ocean and lake researchers in Israel say that, this year, these calls have started two weeks earlier than expected.

Every year, MDA teams provide medical attention to bathers who have been stung by the jellyfish. Some require hospitalization due to direct burns. One does not have to come into direct contact with a jellyfish to actually feel the burn. The poisonous cells burn even when they are no longer attached to the jellyfish itself. Those who have successfully avoided direct contact with the jellyfish have recognised the phenomenon of "burning water" or "Jellyfish eggs". There are no jellyfish, only the burns.

A burn from a jellyfish is not usually dangerous and, therefore, there is no reason for panic. When feeling a burning sensation, one should get out of the water and wash the burn site with vinegar. The vinegar neutralises the poison. If there is no vinegar available, wash the site with salt water. Do not use plain water and do not rub it with sand - doing so will only help the poisonous cells to split and spread. After cleaning with vinegar, one should then wash the site with regular tap water and soap.

In severe cases, in which the secretions of the jellyfish are accompanied by respiratory difficulty, swelling in greater parts of the body, a widespread rash, itching and suffocation in the area of the throat, one should urgently call MDA (tel: 101) in order to transfer the victim, as quickly as possible, to the nearest medical facility.

MDA's Training Department calls on the public, when bathing, to equip themselves in advance with a small bottle of domestic vinegar in order to treat the jellyfish burns. It is important to remember that one should be especially careful when swimming at the beach. Use protective sun cream, wear a hat and drink large quantities of water in order to protect oneself from heat stroke.



SUMMER ACTIVITIES – THE FRENCH DESK OF MAGEN DAVID ADOM

This year, our French Desk summer activities began earlier than usual and varied from the usual. Instead of traveling from one children's summer camp, run by the French Jewish community, to another, our delegation (which included a medic and paramedic) visited a series of synagogues. The visit began on Sunday 13th June at the offices of the French Friends in Paris where the volunteers and those active in the organisation came together to meet the delegation members. In that first week, our delegation visited the Jewish communities of Paris, Rouen and Lyon. Each stop included interviews with local communications networks, first-aid instruction and Power point presentations depicting MDA's humanitarian activities. According to Michael Atalan, an MDA volunteer and delegation participant, this is especially important as he believes that Magen David Adom's humanitarian work is less well-known among Diaspora Jewish communities.

Gilbert Dahan, from the Villerbane community, was surprised to discover that, in addition to aiding terrorist attack and road traffic accident victims, all year round Magen David Adom deals with women about to give birth, the elderly and with many welfare cases. He was also surprised to hear that, every year, Magen David Adom in Israel collects more than 40,000 food parcels for the needy. These parcels are then distributed before Festivals all over Israel.

Walter Sperling, a representative of the French Friends of Magen David Adom in Lyon, points out that by using the Jewish press, news has spread about Magen David Adom's efforts to aid victims of the Haiti earthquake. However, with the delegation's visit with slideshow and Power point presentation, the details of these rescue activities become clearer and are a great source of pride.

President of MDA France, Dr. Lazar Kaplan,



points out that it is very important to expose communities all over the world to the wonderful activities of Magen David Adom. The project, which has started as a joint effort between Magen David Adom's French Desk in Israel and Magen David Adom in France, will add greatly to the organisation's overall image and exposure.

A COURSE FOR PR PERSONNEL

From 14-16th June, a course for PR personnel, organized by the International Department, took place for the first time in MDA.

25 people took part in the course, including paramedics and medics from the different MDA regions, and also from the Blood Bank and the National Medical Dispatch Centre, all speaking English, French or Russian.

The purpose of the course was to give the participants the utensils needed to accompany groups and individuals who come to visit the various MDA regions and different departments and to promote MDA and its various activities.

For three days the participants heard lectures presenting the activities of MDA, the different projects the Organisation is involved in and the humanitarian activities in which it takes part, whether in Israel or abroad.

The participants practiced simulations in small working groups, as part of their practical training.

At the end of the course the participants expressed their high level of satisfaction with the course, the contents of the lectures and the importance of the task they had taken upon themselves.

A large emphasis was given to the Friends of MDA organizations, their structure and their tremendous contribution to the organisation.

Within the framework of the course, the participants took part in a night tour of the Old City of Jerusalem and enjoyed the "Festival of Light" which was taking place at that time.

The participants of the course will start their activities during the coming week, welcoming visitors to the MDA stations.



FIRST RESPONDERS

DANIEL WEISS & ELI COHEN

It is not every day that members of a medical team feel they have brought about a change, that they really and truly succeeded in saving a life.

In the following case, there is no doubt that with the presence of First Responders on motorbikes, their skills and determination they made all the difference between life and death to a patient of about 67, who collapsed in the middle of the street after having had an argument with a passer-by.

Daniel Weiss, riding on motorbike 1063, is a medical student and has been a volunteer in MDA for the past 5 years. He received the call just as he started his weekly training session. A minute later and he would not have received the call.

Eli Cohen, riding on motorbicycle 1063, has been an MDA volunteer for the past ten years. He received the call and debated whether to go out or not - he did not know if the incident was near him. Taking advice from his friends, he understood that he was close to the site and, without hesitation he arrived on the scene within minutes.

Daniel, who had arrived first, noted that a life threatening situation had occurred and began CPR, and then, with Eli's help who had arrived a minute or two later, he attached the patient to a defibrillator.

The machine identified ventricular fibrillation and advised giving a shock. Despite the fact that they felt that the pulse had returned, they continued with CPR for two minutes - adhering to medical protocols. The Mobile Intensive Care Unit team, who arrived during those two minutes, found that the patient, who a moment earlier had been lying on the floor unconscious and without signs of life, had received a pulse and even blood pressure.

An additional motorbike, ridden by Muhammed Elian 1081, who arrived at this stage in order to help with the CPR, saw that there were enough members of the team at the incident, and left to another case of a bad traffic accident which had happened nearby. Recently, the Paramedic in charge - Israel Cohen - was informed that the patient returned to full consciousness and in fact received his life back.

Daniel and Eli both feel that incidents such as this give them the strength to continue on as volunteers. Thanks to them the patient was saved. Well done!

