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Saving

Lives

MAGEN
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Israel's National EMS

Every

Day



Picture of the week

Photo: MDA Spokesmen



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Earthquake in Turkey

MDA offers assistance to Turkish rescue forces

Following the powerful earthquake that hit Alazig province in Turkey, MDA Director General Eli Bin released a letter to Dr. Kerem Kinik, President of the Turkish Red Crescent on Saturday (25.1) extending an offer of assistance to help the humanitarian initiative. Great appreciation was expressed towards the Turkish Red Crescent forces and praised their work.

“We are anxiously tracking the developments. Our heart goes out to the Turkish people and to those who have lost loved ones. The Turkish Red Crescent is respected and highly experienced in responding to disaster. MDA leadership, its employees and volunteers are following with admiration after the effective response given by the forces,” Eli Bin wrote. I am confident in the alliance that we have built and view this as an opportunity

to offer assistance if necessary.” MDA director General concluded.

MDA Director General Eli Bin: “This is a significant earthquake that requires a large-scale response and collaboration between a large number of organizations. I have a great appreciation for the Turkish Red Crescent and its leadership, which has already set up a control center in Ankara and a field kitchen capable of feeding 5,000 people daily. Additionally, 2,500 shelter tents were set up for families, blood has been secured to supply to hospitals, mental health teams are available for those in need, and more. I view this as an opportunity for collaboration and offer all assistance towards saving lives anywhere in the world - this is how MDA has operated in the past and will continue to do so.”



An Advanced Course for Physicians from France

During the past week, 40 doctors from all over France came to an advanced course of the MDA International Unit on the topic of transitioning from routine to emergency operations. The course included a seminar on Emergency Medicine Innovations, volunteering on MDA MICUs, a day on Rescue Medicine with rescue simulations in the western Negev. MDA instructors have trained and drilled the physicians in a wide range of scenarios based on unique knowledge gained in MDA over the years.





Magen David

In preparation for International Holocaust and Heroes' Remembrance Day, two delegations of Magen David Adom comprised of seventy-seven medics and paramedics, visited cities, towns, ghettos and extermination camps throughout Poland, hearing and learning the history of the Jewish people in the holocaust.

"We stand today where our ancestors' feet tread. They too, carried the famous Star of David emblem on their clothing. For them, it was a branded sign of disgrace. In our case, it is our pride. It was forced upon them to wear it, while we don it upon ourselves willingly. We are appreciative and excited to stand in the same place while proudly carrying the Star of David emblem, this time not only as representatives of the Jewish people living in the Land of Israel and the State of Israel, but also as the official representatives of the national rescue organization for the State of Israel." Read by Ohad Hoffman (38) of Petah Tikva, who is a lawyer as well as a volunteer paramedic at Magen David Adom.

MDA medic Sophie Esthov (21) from Tel Aviv shared with her travel companions that only two weeks prior, she had finally completed her conversion, after a long process. The following day, near the grave of the late Rabbi Elimelech of Lejansk, the members of the group, who

could not remain indifferent, organized a Bat Mitzvah celebration for Sophie. In the moving event, members of Knesset including Rafi Peretz, minister of education, as well as MDA Director General Eli Bin, joined in blessing her through a video call. "I was so excited," Sophie exclaimed, "At first, I didn't understand what was going on. I couldn't believe that I was celebrating being Jewish on Polish soil, alongside a Torah scroll in our possession that had survived the Holocaust. MDA has been my family for six

years, and everyone alongside me joined in with my excitement. The members of the group, both Jews and Muslims, could not stop the tears from flowing, and this was undoubtedly an unforgettable experience for me, and for them as well."

When they arrived at the ancient synagogue in the town of Zamosc, many of the participants were called up to read from the Torah, including Yossi Shmulevich from Holon. Those surrounding Yossi could not help but notice the excitement that was spread upon his face. Tearfully he explained to them that because he had not celebrated his Bar Mitzvah, he had never read from the Torah before.

The members of the delegation could not stop thinking about what Yossi had shared with them, and upon returning to Israel, they decided to surprise their friend with a special Bar Mitzvah





celebration at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, which took place January 27, on International Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day. Yossi traveled with his wife Vered to the Western Wall, and was overjoyed and surprised when he realized that he had just walked into his own Bar Mitzvah celebration. He was called up to the Torah, put on Tefillin and even survived the traditional candy throwing.

Ilan Teller (57) from Holon, a senior volunteer medic in MDA and head of one of the delegations, explained: "The journey to Poland with MDA takes place annually. The importance of this expedition is highly recognized to us in the medical field, as the mission emphasizes the value of life.

"It was an empowering and memorable

experience. We took a week from our life, for the rest of life," Is how Chaim Dagan (50) from Tzur Yigal, in charge of the volunteers in the Yarkon area, and lead of the delegation concluded the journey.

MDA Director General Eli Bin: "Two expeditions of Magen David Adom, one after the other, set out on a journey to Poland, to enable as many emergency medical trainees and life-saving personnel to learn about the Jewish people's past and hear about the acts of cruelty that occurred on Polish soil. MDA, as an organization that saves lives, and as the most significant humanitarian organization in Israel, sets itself the goal of teaching its adult workers and volunteers, youth included, that we must never be silent in the face of the atrocities that are happening around us".





A Lifesaving Ambulance Dedicated by Betty and David Mond in Ra'anana

On January 23rd 2020 an ambulance was dedicated in the MDA Ra'anana station by Betty and David Mond via MDA Australia (Melbourne) in the presence of the Mayor of Ra'anana Chaim Broide, Deputy Mayors Nir Kristal and Chaim Goldman, Ms. Danielle Weiss, MDA Yarkon Region Director Dory Chaim , Deputy Director Assi Dvilanski, MDA International Department, MDA Ra'anana volunteers and employees.



David Mond spoke and reiterated the importance of the Hebrew language and the connection between Jews around the world, his bond with the City of Ra'anana as a proud part-time resident.

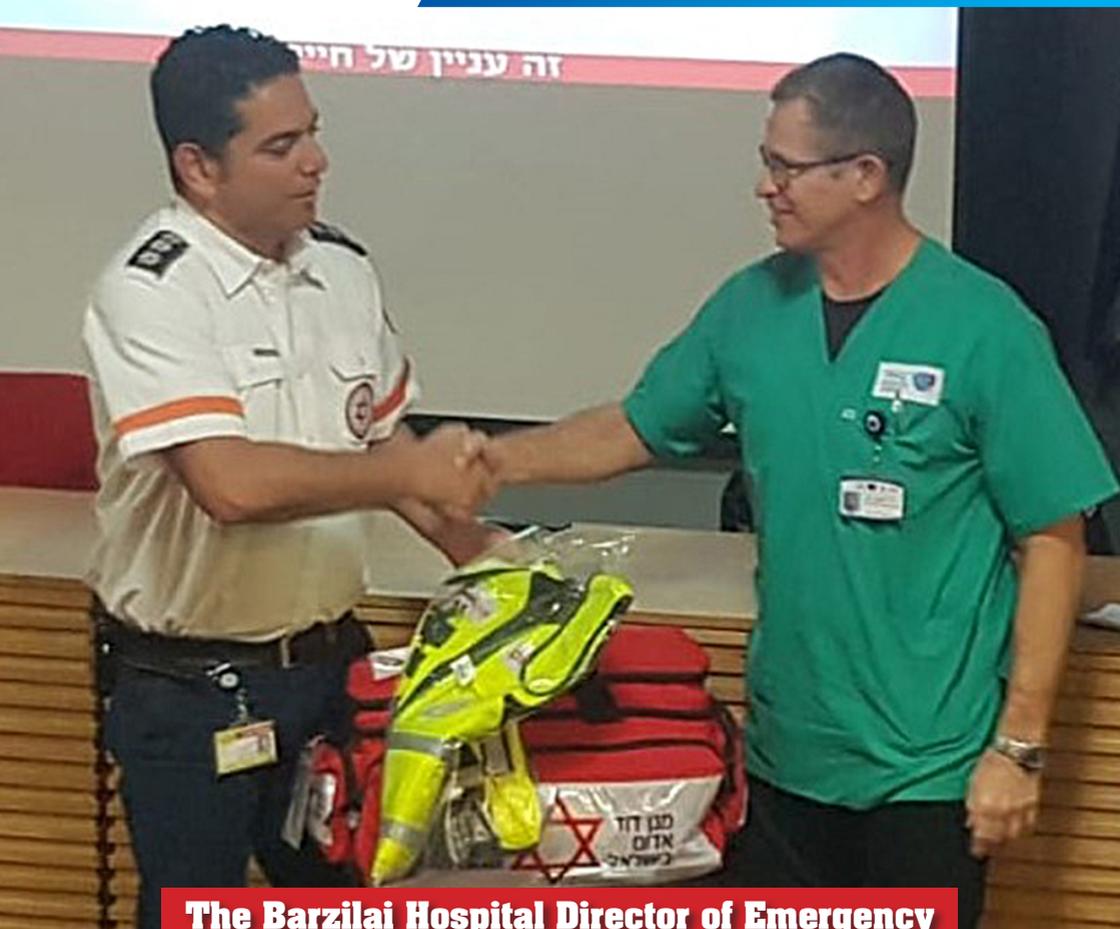
He spoke about his family connection with Israel and the important role of MDA to the people of

Israel and the importance in supporting the mission of MDA.

The Mayor of Ra'anana: The donation of a lifesaving ambulance strengthens the people Israel and is important to the residents of the city and the surrounding communities. Saving lives is of the utmost importance. It is part of the Israeli identity.

Following the unveiling of the inscription by Betty and David Mond and Ra'anana Mayor Chaim Broide, and the handing over of the keys to a team member of the Yarkon region, Yoni Yagodovsky, MDA Director of the International Department explained to the family the importance of MDA ambulances abilities within the organization and the crew that will work on it, all of whom can be volunteers at any given shift.





The Barzilai Hospital Director of Emergency Department Joined MDA First Responders

Dr. Jonathan Rick (59) of Ra'anana, director of Emergency Medicine at Barzilai Medical Center, joined Magen David Adom's First Responders unit this week. As an MDA First Responder, Dr. Rick will respond, outside of his working hours, to various calls received at the 101 MDA emergency line, including road accidents, cardiac events, various injuries and more. Dr. Rick connected to the Magen David Adom First Responders App and received a medical kit with advanced medical equipment.

Dr. Rick said: "For many years I have been working with MDA, and among other things, giving training

to EMTs and paramedics in the organization. I really appreciate this organization, which does professional work, and was happy to contribute the skills I have gained over the years to save lives, even outside the hospital".

MDA Lachish region Director Haim Karadi congratulated Dr. Rick for joining MDA's First Responders array, saying: "The joining of a senior physician for our First Responders array is important, and is another pillar of Magen David Adom's excellent collaboration with the medical center Barzilai in Ashkelon".



MDA is Expanding its Activity in Carmiel

Two new community ambulances join MDA's fleet of emergency vehicles in the Carmiel area for the benefit of residents. Community ambulances are operated by MDA volunteers drivers who are local residents, one of them staffed by ultra-Orthodox EMTs. Rabbi Avraham Zvi Margalit gave his blessing for inaugurating the ambulance and volunteering for the ultra-Orthodox EMTs.

280 EMTs, paramedics and first-aid responders in MDA volunteer and work in Carmiel, responding to medical emergencies in and around the city.

As part of strengthening the medical response in the area for the benefit of the residents of

Carmiel, community-policing teams were trained by MDA to provide first aid, and the police mobile units were equipped with an advanced emergency medical equipment.

MDA Asher Regional Director Eli Peretz “I welcome the inauguration of new community ambulances, staffed by MDA EMTs and paramedics, to provide professional medical care to anyone in need, and save lives. I personally thank the Mayor Moshe Kuninsky, the municipality and MDA volunteers, who enable the new ambulances to operate.”

