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Israel's National EMS

Shabbat Red Alert

4.5.2019

101



Support Magen David Adom

Days Before Memorial Day

Large Barrages of Rockets Rain on Israel

Saturday May 4, 2019 at 09:58: Red alerts blared all over Southern Israel. The residents are used to such occurrences and understand that they are in for a long day of rockets. Over the next hour, over 100 rockets would be shot into Israel. This number would triple over the course of the day and unfortunately cause injuries and damaged property in the area.

The first alerts were heard in the morning while residents were still enjoying the Shabbat in their homes with their families and friends. From this moment onwards they heard explosions and sirens. MDA raised the alert level following an assessment of the situation with the relevant security personnel such that when the first sirens sounded, MDA teams were protected and ready to respond.

MDA Director General Eli Bin instructed all regions under fire and those neighboring: "Following a consultation with security forces, it was determined to increase the alert level to the highest level in the Negev and Lachish Regions and raised in the Ayalon, Yarkon, Sharon and Jerusalem Regions. The managers were instructed to instruct the Dispatch and field teams in relevant protocols. MDA Youth Volunteers are forbidden from volunteering at stations within



40km of the Gaza Border area and additional MICUs and ambulances are being staffed with volunteer teams."

MDA's Negev Regional Dispatch Center moved to operate from a backup center which is protected from rockets, while the Lachish Regional Dispatch Center continued operations as usual thanks to the generous donors who made it possible to fortify the Center, allowing it to be fully operational at all times. MDA Stations are now fully staffed with both employees and volunteers who immediately reported to save lives even on Shabbat.

There were many reports of property damage, panicked residents, and several wounded. MDA teams treated 3 people who were wounded while running to protected areas including: a 15 year old in Sderot and others with stress symptoms including an 11 year old.

MDA Paramedic Yaniv Shamis: In the Sderot area we were called to treat a 15 year old who sustained minor injuries while running to the protected area, and an 11 year old girl with stress symptoms both of whom refused transport following first aid treatment. In addition, our teams treated a 30 year old man in Ashkelon and a 40 year old woman in Gan Yavne, both of whom suffered from stress symptoms.





At 10:30, the rockets made their way north to Ashdod and Rechovot, and in the afternoon to Beit Shemesh and Kiryat Gat.

MDA teams in the Negev and Lachish Regions spent the afternoon running from scene to scene, keeping track of the rocket alerts, and providing treatment to the citizens who called 101. The entire country was on their toes praying that there would be no loss of life. However, the afternoon brought with it 5 different scenes in Kiryat Gat alone.

MDA Senior EMT Karl Reifman: "Immediately after the rocket siren, we responded to reports of an injured woman as a result of the rocket attack. Upon arriving on the scene, we found an 80 year old woman with severe injuries to her head and hand. We provided emergency treatment and transferred her to Barzilai Hospital in severe, yet stable condition."

Not 30 minutes later at 15:51, MDA teams were called to treat a victim with shrapnel injuries in the Asheklon area.



MDA Paramedic Moti Shuv and EMT Ben Tetro recalled: "Immediately following the rocket alert, we received reports of a man who was injured by shrapnel in the Ashkelon area. Upon arriving on the scene, we provided treatment to a 50 year old man with moderate injuries to his limbs in stable condition."

MDA's senior management conducted an additional assessment of the situation with the relevant security personnel and the IDF. MDA teams are working in full cooperation with the IDF and security forces. MDA Director General Eli Bin: "MDA teams are on high alert and are ready and available to provide medical treatment should the need arise. MDA teams are experienced and able to handle incidents of this nature. We are in constant contact with the relevant security forces and are constantly assessing the situation. The days incidents have proved the importance of following the Home Front Command's instructions. Following the instructions saves lives, and as a result many have been saved. I would like to praise the MDA volunteers and employees who leave their families in the protected areas and go to save lives during the rocket sirens. MDA will continue to be on high alert and will provide services at any time, anywhere. I would like to take the opportunity to remind the public to download the MyMDA application which allows them to call MDA with the touch of a button and automatically transmits their location."

As of 20:00, after Shabbat, over 300 rockets

have been shot into Israel. The IDF has taken out terror targets and rocket launch sites in an attempt to curb the onslaught of rockets. The Israeli Government convened and MDA is continuing to maintain a high level of alert. Once Shabbat was over, even more volunteers flooded the stations and are available to provide care and respond to incidents.

While we hope for quieter days ahead, MDA is ready to assist the IDF with any request that may be made. Simultaneously, MDA is continuing preparations for Memorial Day and Independence Days and is ready to answer all calls.

At 02:35 a report was received at MDA 101 Lachish region about a rocket hit in a building in the Ashkelon area. MDA medics and paramedics provided medical treatment and evacuated to Barzilai Hospital a 60 year old man in a critical condition with shrapnel injuries to the chest and abdomen.

MDA Paramedic Moti Shuv and MDA medics Ben Tetra and Israel Lugasi told: "Immediately after the siren was heard we were taken to a private house that was hit by a rocket. At the entrance to the house we saw a man in the sixties lying unconscious after being hit in the chest by shrapnel".

From 2:00 AM to 5:00 AM, MDA medics and paramedics provided medical treatment and evacuated 24 injured (6 from shrapnel, 2 from running to protected area and 16 with stress symptoms), including a 60 year old man who was critically injured by shrapnel in his chest (in Ashkelon), 5 mildly injured by shrapnel (Ashkelon area), 2 were injured on their way to the protected area, and 16 suffered from stress symptoms attack.

From Saturday at 10:00 AM until tonight at 4:30 AM MDA medics and paramedics provided medical treatment to 83 injured (4 shrapnel, 12 injured on the way to the protected area, 62



who suffered stress symptoms). Nine injured by shrapnel, a 60 year old man who was evacuated in critical condition (in Ashkelon), a woman of about 80 (in Kiryat Gat) who was evacuated in serious condition with shrapnel wounds to her face and limbs. A man of about 50 (in the Ashqelon area) in moderate condition with shrapnel injuries to his limbs evacuated to Barzilai and six minor injured in Ashkelon and northern Negev areas. In addition, the MDA teams treated 12 mildly people who were injured while running to the protected area, 62 patients who suffered from stress symptoms.

Update from the field:

Summary of the rocket fire from Gaza to Israel as of May 4th and onwards: 492 detected launches towards Israeli territory, 21 to populated areas. Iron Dome has successfully intercepted 119 rockets. As a consequence of the rocket fire, a 57 year old man was killed, an 80 year old woman was seriously wounded, another civilian was moderately wounded and 21 others were lightly wounded.

During the night, MDA teams provided medical assistance to 24 wounded. Six were injured by shrapnel, 2 were injured and 16 treated for panic attacks.

