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Israel's National EMS



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1
15 Doctors and Paramedics
from Around the World
Join MDA's International
Emergency Unit



2
MDA Teams Conducted a
Workshop in the International
Red Cross Conference in
Geneva



3
New MDA Initiative



5
MDA Forces Participated at
the "Storm Suit" Drill



6
"I wasn't Afraid, it was Like a
Hollywood Movie"



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Picture of the week



Photo: MDA Spokesmen



15 Doctors and Paramedics from Around the World Join MDA's International Emergency Unit

2 US doctors, 3 doctors and 3 paramedics from Italy, a paramedic from Brazil, a paramedic from Poland, a doctor and 2 paramedics from Sweden, a doctor from Germany and a paramedic from Australia – these are the new upcoming members of the International Emergency Unit of Magen David Adom. They arrived in Israel two weeks ago in order to undergo training in MDA and eventually join the unit.

The doctors and paramedics completed five days of intensive training. Among other things, they participated in a multi-casualty event drill, visited the IDF Medical Corps and attended lectures and training in various fields. Additionally, the medical personnel from around the world volunteered in MDA ambulances and MICUs.

The MDA International Unit was established in 2007, and today it includes hundreds of doctors and paramedics from various countries around the world who came to Israel to undergo training at Magen David Adom, so that they can return to Israel and assist MDA forces in a time of emergency.

"The MDA seminar is excellent, inspiring,

educational and is a wonderful experience for me," said one of the doctors joining MDA's international unit **Dr. Michael Black from the United States**, "I thank Magen David Adom for teaching and sharing information."

"Magen David Adom's International Unit is one of our flagship projects for bringing together doctors and paramedics from around the world to Israel's National Rescue Organization," said **Vicki Angel, the Project Director**, "The seven doctors and eight paramedics from four different continents came to learn from us. We are pleased and thank them for their good will in helping the Magen David Adom organization and the State of Israel."

MDA Director General Eli Bin: "It is a great pride and privilege for us that senior doctors, including surgeons, specialists in emergency medicine, psychiatrists, family doctors and anesthesiologists, come to the State of Israel on a volunteer basis and undergo training at Magen David Adom. Its importance is especially great because in a time of emergency, they will be able to return to Israel and assist MDA forces in providing medical care in the field."





MDA Teams Conducted a Workshop in the International Red Cross Conference in Geneva

The first minutes after an injury can be critical, especially in a mass-casualty event, in which there are many wounded with significant injuries. Magen David Adom, as Israel's national society, member of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Emergency Medical Service, has accumulated much experience with response to mass-casualty events.

Within the framework of The Red Cross Red Crescent movement 31st international conference which took place in Geneva, a workshop was held last week. Through the workshop, conference members completed a short training that covered the management of the first minutes following the onset of a mass casualty situation including the administration of first aid to the casualties. The event was organized by The American Red Cross, The Philippine Red Cross, and Magen David Adom.

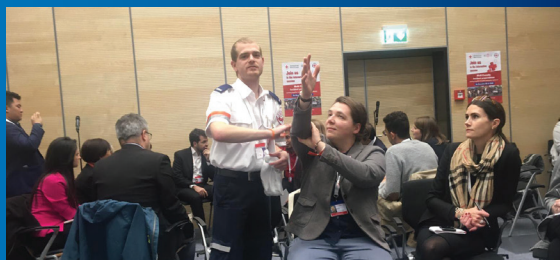
Additionally, during the event, representatives of The American Red Cross, The Philippine Red Cross, and Magen David Adom shared the experience they accumulated in the joint project in the Philippines, in which the partners are involved in enhancing the community's preparedness in dealing with disastrous events.

Among the participants of the event: Israel's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Ambassador Aviva Raz Shechter, MDA Director General, Mr. Eli Bin, The Philippine Red Cross Secretary General, Ms. Elizabeth Zavalla and Executive Director, Policy and Partnerships American Red Cross, Ms. Rebecca Streifler.

MDA Movement affairs director, Uri Shacham:

"The inclusion of the community in administering first aid to the wounded in emergency situations is the foundation on which professional response administered by MDA and The Red Cross Societies' teams, worldwide, is based upon. The workshop, in which the participants took an active role, exemplified how a short lecture in different languages constructs the ability within a community to respond in emergency situations."

MDA Director General Eli Bin: "It excites me every time, like the first, to see how with the help of the unique experience that MDA's medics and paramedics gain, we succeed to impact in the field of first aid and life-saving in many countries worldwide. The fantastic collaboration with The Philippine Red Cross and The American Red Cross allows us to share our knowledge with them and learn from their experiences."





New MDA Initiative

The resuscitation standpoints of Magen David Adom - in your office or building

Magen David Adom started a new initiative, which includes smart resuscitation standpoints, which includes a resuscitation device - a defibrillator - in offices and residential buildings. The standpoints are installed and maintained by MDA and are automatically connected to MDA's 101 Emergency Dispatch center.

In the case of cardiac arrest, every minute is critical. Every 60 seconds that elapses from the time of the event without treatment, the patient's chances of survival decrease by 7% -10%. As the electrical shock from the resuscitation device - the defibrillator - is performed quicker, the patient's chances of resuming cardiac activity increase dramatically. Many lives have already been saved by the Magen David Adom defibrillators, which any citizen can operate easily, without any prior medical knowledge. The device provided electric shock as needed, dictates the rate of compressions, and provides clear voice and visual operating instructions. At

the same time, the defibrillator connects to the MDA Emergency Dispatch Center, with the user receiving additional instructions from EMTs and paramedics at 101 Emergency Dispatch Center .

At the same time, MDA teams are receiving details of the patient on their way to the scene.



"The defibrillator requires regular maintenance," **explains Dr. Raphael Strugo, MDA Deputy Director General-Medicine**, "Only a regular defibrillator check will ensure it can be used for real-time resuscitation, and save lives."

"MDA smart resuscitation standpoints, currently located in offices and residential buildings, include a coded cabinet and a smart defibrillator, which is connected to MDA's 101 emergency line, transmits and alerts every malfunction," **says MDA Friends in Israel' Director Orly Ariel**, "MDA will maintain the device at all times, ensuring its proper operation in real time."

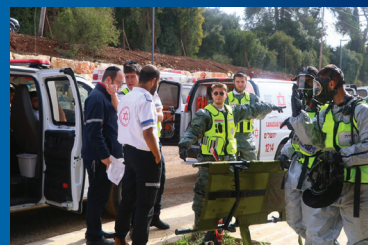


MDA Forces Participated at the “Storm Suit” Drill

The “Storm Suit” drill that ended last week simulated severe winter weather scenarios. As part of the drill, attended by MDA forces and led by the Ministry of Public Security and the Israeli Police, many multi-casualty scenarios were practiced, including a train-burning scenario in the Jezreel Valley area and a building collapse scenario in Kiryat Anavim, near Jerusalem. The drill focused on the issue of command and control of extreme weather scenarios, throughout the country providing

operational response and cooperation between senior ranks of the Israeli police, Magen David Adom, Fire and Rescue, Home Front Command, government ministries, local authorities and more. All the security and rescue forces, including dozens of MDA EMTs and paramedics, ambulances, MICUs, All-Terrain Vehicles,

4 * 4 vehicles and MDA helicopters, took part in the scenario practice.





“I wasn’t Afraid, it was Like a Hollywood Movie”:

The return of Freddie Gruber to life

Freddie Gruber (72) from Tel Aviv, who for decades has been a journalist with the Broadcasting Authority and is currently an amateur photographer, traveled to the village of Maghar last month. Suddenly, within the nature and pastoral landscapes of the Lower Galilee, he began to feel very bad, out of nowhere, and asked his partner to call MDA.



“We were on an administrative ride near Maghar, when we were called to provide medical treatment to a man who was feeling bad,” **MDA EMT Fahd Abed el Veli recalled.** “When we arrived, Freddie was fully conscious, pale and with severe chest pain. We started to perform medical checks, and in the process, he collapsed and lost his pulse and stopped breathing. Immediately, I laid him on the ground, started chest compressions, and a few seconds later I gave him a shock from the defibrillator. It didn’t take a minute and his heart beat again. “

“After giving the shock and coming back to life, Freddie was semi conscious, and we immediately ‘transferred him to the MICU and began evacuation to the hospital,” **said MDA paramedic MDA Nazia Slayh.** “On the way, Freddie lost his pulse and breathing no less than

six times. Each time he was given a shock, and returned back to life again and again. I am a paramedic in MDA for almost twenty years, and this is one of the most complex cases I have had. It goes without saying that a

patient who has repeatedly undergone cardiac arrest and is treated with an electric shock, comes to the hospital fully conscious, and does not need anesthesia or breathing.

For the first time since the incident, Freddie met the people at his home who saved his life. At the moving meeting, Freddie told MDA EMTs and paramedics that he realized the situation was serious, and yet he was not afraid.

“MDA’s staff were so professional, that I knew somewhere they would get me out of it,” **Freddie repeated,** I knew I was in the hands of the people I needed at that moment. Such professionalism, such dedication. These are not people who just came to work, they were there It was like a Hollywood movie, I don’t think I was on the verge of death, it’s hard to catch anything like that. There used to be a very popular series called ‘Charlie’s Angels’, and I read that they recently did a new series with the same name. I thought to myself that MDA paramedics were obviously my angels.”