

Scenarios fo Round Tables

February 17th, 2014

Natural Disaster Scenario

At 0800 hours, a powerful earthquake shook off the coast of Crete in the Mediterranean Sea. The Israeli Geological Institute sent out an immediate message to the Prime minister's (PM's) office, the Ministry of Home Front Defense, the Ministry of Public Security and the Home Front Command, warning about a very high probability a tsunami wave hitting the Israeli coast within an hour.

The PM ordered the immediate evacuation of all residents and businesses along the coastline, residing up to 50 meters from the shore, utilizing the police force, the IDF and any available authoritative force. Simultaneously, the PM ordered the cease of all radio and television broadcasts to transmit repeating messages about necessary evacuations. In addition, the PM requested to check the possibility of posting similar messages on the internet Hebrew news sites, as well as all internet search engines and social media networks.

The Minister of Public Security instantly announced a "Mass Disaster Event" according to Article 90(a) of the Police Ordinance. The Mayor of Tel Aviv city (chair of the EP Committee¹), Who believed the flood would impact further away from the shore, ordered all city officers to patrol the streets and evacuate via "Dan" buses company and any other available vehicle, all residents and businesses up to 100 meters from the shore in the Tel-Aviv-Jaffa area.

At 0900 hours, a 9-meter-high swell washed the entire costal region. All areas located topographically lower than 10 meters above sea-level were washed and flooded. The surge carried vehicles and building debris, wreaking havoc. Deaths and multiple casualties were reported, tens of thousands were reported homeless.

¹ Emergency Preparedness. ועדת מלי"ח- מוכנות לשעת חירום.

At 1200 hours, the Minister of Public Security ordered the residents to stay indoors and move to higher floors, and the police force to prevent any residents in the flooded regions from leaving their houses due to the risks.

The Navy launched all available inflatable boats from all storage facilities and sent soldiers to aid, evacuating residents from lower floors on the flooded coast settlements.

The soldiers were ordered to rescue only the lower-floor inhabitants and the wounded, and to insure the upper-floor residents stay inside, by using force if necessary.

Many of the people staying in the higher floors demanded the soldiers to rescue them, yet the commanding force's orders were meticulously carried out, including the use of reasonable force.

Turkey sent a shipment of inflatable boats with Turkish Army soldiers, which began aiding the evacuation with the PM's approval, also utilizing force against the higher-floor residents wishing to be evacuated.

As information of the catastrophe's scale began arriving, it was evident that the whole Bay of Haifa had been flooded, including the Harbor and the Refinery Compound.

Rambam Hospital had been flooded and all access routes to-and-from it were blocked.



It also turned out, that a foreign-flag ship carrying two tons of Ammonia, docked at the cargo port of Haifa Harbor, was washed with the surge and landed next to Lev Ha'Mifratz shopping mall. Word of the ship's location immediately reached the firefighting services.

The Hazardous Material Event Specialist banned approaching the vessel and taking any action until the ship could be reached and the hazardous materials pumped out. A boat carrying police officers and firefighters halted its approach following these orders. A Navy boat decided to approach the vessel nonetheless, and a crew of soldiers boarded the ship to examine whether, as long as the area remains flooded, it would be possible to drag the ship back to the dock area. During the attempts, additional damage was caused, and the probability of fracturing the containers increased. The Navy soldiers quickly evacuated the ship.

In Tel-Aviv, floods impacted the streets and lower floors of buildings in proximity to the shore, including hotels and apartment buildings, and the streets were blocked for passage. The surge rushed up the Yarkon and Ayalon streams carrying debris, and the Stock-Market ('Bursa') compound in Ramat Gan was flooded. The Ramat-Gan Mayor asked to place extensive parts of the city under curfew, and establish a volunteer-based Emergency Policing Force to enforce the curfew. Simultaneously, the Director of EAF² ordered to utilize in a coordinated, hierarchical fashion, the various food-for-the-needy associations to provide hot meals for the people still remaining indoors, and issue a decree determining the distribution specifications (content delivered, distributor responsibility and distribution destination).

Three hours later, the water subsided, leaving animal and human bodies and wreckage. Extensive rehabilitation measures are now required. As part of these actions, establishing Martial Law is considered. Simultaneously, the Ministry of Finance decided to proceed with an arrangement as part of the Israeli Omnibus Bill (Hok Hahesderim) to determine the compensations allowed for the people affected. According to this arrangement, residents who had no insurance will be compensated with 50% of the evaluated damage costs, and residents with insurance will receive 100% compensation from the insurance

² Evacuation, Aid, Fatalities- a designated authority operating during emergency events as part of the "emergency economy management" (מלי"ח) and run by the Ministry of Interior. The authority has representatives from the government ministries, the IDF/Home Front Command, the Police forces, the Local Authorities' Center and the National Volunteering Council. פס"ח- פינני, סעד, חללים.

companies. The state will provide insured residents with legal assistance as the insurance companies pile on the difficulties. Uninsured residents, who did not follow instructions during the evacuation process, will receive compensations for only 25% of the damage, and insured residents who did not follow evacuation orders will be taxed 40% from the refunding. As part of the law, a special court will be established to discuss all compensation law-suits. For the purpose, special allocations for judges will be granted. The coalition representatives for the judge-selecting-committee will be instructed to locate senior lawyers with experience in arbitration, over 65 years of age.

Terrorism Event Scenario

A propeller-driven civilian airplane that took off from Cyprus heading towards Lebanon, veered off course and entered Israeli airspace across the Naharya Shore. The Israeli Airforce monitored the aircraft for 20 minutes during which attempts were made to contact the pilot. With the failure of these efforts, Israeli Air Force aircrafts shot the plane, which crashed above the Haifa-Bay region. The Aircraft remains were spread across an inhabited area of 1 square-km. The Minister of Security asked to declare a "special situation on the home front" as by the Civil Defense Law.

A large bag from aboard the plane fell down on a crowded street, from which spread large quantities of white powder. Police and Fire-fighting forces arriving on scene suspected the substance to be Anthrax³. Rumors of a potential biological weapon caused widespread panic and people began fleeing the area. The Minister of Interior was immediately informed of the concern that the substance is hazardous, and asked to announce a nationwide "Mass Disaster Event" according to Article 90(a) of the Police Ordinance.

The mayors of nearby Kyriat Motzkin and Kyriat Yam jurisdictions demanded the police immediately evacuate all residents in the area, yet the Mayor of Haifa objected.

³ Inhaling Anthrax causes breathing difficulties, weakness, muscle aches, shock and eventually death 24-36 hours from experiencing breathing difficulties. A vaccine is available, effective even after exposure, if given within 24 hours of exposure. The vaccine itself carries unpleasant side-effects.

Police forces, aided by firefighter arriving on scene, instructed the people in the area to remain put, fearing their clothes are contaminated with the bacteria. "Eged" company buses were summoned and the people were moved to a nearby mall, where they were detained for examination and treatment by the Magen-David-Adom (MDA- Israeli Red-Cross) personnel.

Hundreds flowed to Rambam Hospital demanding to receive a vaccine immediately. The Minister of Health declared a the nation's health was in threat of grave danger, to allow using Director of Health Services authorities by the Public Health Ordinance (1940); Simultaneously, the Major General in Command declared the area of the plane's crash and the Rambam Hospital as a "closed area" (by virtue of regulation 125).

A few hours later, the substance was positively identified as Anthrax, and grave concern rose, that the strong winds that blew during the day dispersed the bacteria over an area far greater than was initially suspected. The Minister of Security announced it to be an "unconventional terrorism event" and summoned a crisis-management team, delegating the authority for handling the case to the team members.

The Minister of Economy has decided to force workers in two pharmaceutical companies in Jerusalem and Rehovot to stay at work, in order to produce enough of the vaccine to immunize all those who were exposed to the disease.

Simultaneously, the Minister of Health began an operation to quickly vaccinate all residents of the north, using military paramedics and MDA volunteers, starting with residents of Haifa and the Krayot region.

A group of Orthodox Jews from Zfat announced they refuse to accept the vaccine, and the Department of Health seeks to force the immunization upon them.

Social-economic scenario

Stage 1

An acute financial and economic crisis which began in Europe a year ago has spread to multiple countries and undermined the stability of many businesses in Israel as well, including the banks, which had to cope with a large-scale debt crisis. A sharp increase of interest-rates and recession which affected wages and led to increased insolvency of mortgage-owners, and two small banks collapsed. It turned out that one quarter of Rishon Le'Zion's residents were clients of one of the collapsed banks. The government discussed the issue and decided to close both banks temporarily for one month, during which all the banks' debts will be frozen. It was also decided to appoint the banks a special "liquidator" by the Ministry of Finance.

Stage 2:

Shortly thereafter began a wave of nationwide termination-of-employment. Unemployment reached 20%, with 50% of the Arab Sector. The situation sent the public for extensive demonstrations in the streets, which became violent. An initiative for "tax-rebellion" also picked up. Businesses were called not to pay VAT, and employers called not to pay income tax for their employees. The initiative was widely adopted. During the demonstrations, security-services arrested 300 individuals involved in the demonstrations calling for tax-rebelling. Those arrested were detained for 3 days during which they were not allowed to meet a lawyer, and the Minister of Security asked Administrative Detention decrees be issued against them. The security services learned a cyber-attack against government and government-related websites was planned as part of the protests.

The Government has convened and asked to declare a nationwide emergency situation.

Stage 3:

A hacker group established following the events, has conducted a wide-spread cyber attack that disturbed the Israeli Land Registry ("Tabu"). In publications posted on the internet, the network announced this to be a small example of their abilities, and

threatened a cyber attack on the computerized databases of several governmental offices and private operations, such as banks. The Security Services were given a lead on two of the hackers and arrested them. Following the arrests, riots were organized in Be'er Sheva, Jaffa, Haifa and Nazareth, with the riot organizers using social networks, such as Facebook and Whatsapp. Riots are breaking out in an organized manner every Friday, each in a different place, informing participants of the location via the internet.