

## **Business Continuity during Disasters in the Medical Health System in Israel**

### **SUMMARY**

- ▶ Major conclusion: there is a good level of preparedness in the Israeli hospitals.
- ▶ All hospitals perform drills and simulations.
- ▶ This study refutes the assumption that large hospitals are more prepared than small hospitals.
- ▶ This study refutes the assumption that hospitals with previous experience in emergency are better prepared than hospitals without experience.
- ▶ This study shows significant difference between hospitals' level of preparations, and the degree of staff self-readiness.
- ▶ This study found lack of knowledge among most of the ED's.
- ▶ This study showed that in Israel the medical staff is not trained and not instructed on the subject of Business Continuity.
- ▶ This study revealed that the Israeli hospitals in general has serious shortage in medical staffs and suffers from low budget.
- ▶ This study showed there was no general alternative plan in most of the ten hospitals in case of total damage.

This study was structured to be a pioneering study in the field of the health care preparedness in Israel, being the first study conducted in Israel in this scope of huge data and large number of hospitals that cooperate in such a study.

Thus, this study can be used as a "Benchmark" for future studies in this field, and hopefully to suggest a change of the concepts and the standards used in the field of "emergency preparedness".

Business Continuity in hospitals is an issue that still needs to be looked into now and then to learn lessons, hospitals need to perform exercises including simulations during each year. Only in this method can lessons be learned and be prepared in case of emergencies. Emergencies is a situation that cannot be prevented in most cases. But with good preparedness it will be easy to deal with emergencies and reduce the number of casualties and get back to routine soon as possible.