Deadly Explosion Triggers Emergency in Swiss Ski Resort

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Several dozen people are feared dead and around 100 injured following an explosion and fire at a

bar in the Crans-Montana ski resort in Switzerland's Valais canton, local authorities said on

Thursday.

According to Valais Cantonal Police, the blast caused severe injuries to many victims, who were

rushed to hospitals in the cantonal capital Sion as well as medical facilities in other cities. Police

Chief Frederic Gisler told a press conference that many of the injured are in critical condition.

Emergency services responded swiftly, deploying helicopters and ambulances, including assistance from neighboring regions and abroad. Local officials said hospital intensive care units and operating rooms were operating at full capacity as doctors worked to treat the wounded.

Authorities have launched a formal investigation to determine the cause of the explosion.

However, police have ruled out the possibility of an attack, emphasizing that there is no indication of terrorism or criminal intent at this stage.

In response to the tragedy, President of the Swiss Confederation Guy Parmelin postponed his scheduled New Year's address and offered condolences to the families of the victims. The Valais cantonal administration has declared a state of emergency to manage the situation and coordinate rescue and medical efforts.

The incident has shocked Switzerland, particularly as Crans-Montana is one of the country's most popular winter tourism destinations.