



GOVERNMENT OF SAINT LUCIA

**National Emergency Management Organization
Prime Minister's Office**

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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NEMO's RESPONSE TO EXPLOSION AT CUL DE SAC, SAINT LUCIA

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 – The National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), Saint Lucia continues to provide support to the National System in coordinating response as a result of the explosion that occurred at the Rayneau Quarry in the Ferrand Estate in Cul de Sac, Tuesday, March 21, 2017.

According to NEMO, a fire resulting from the blast was extinguished by Fire Service personnel following which an initial search was undertaken. Two persons were confirmed dead on the scene by a medical doctor.

First responders from the Saint Lucia Fire Service and Royal St. Lucia Police Force immediately reported to the site to find that the most severely injured were transported to the Victoria Hospital via private vehicles. A secondary search carried out by the Police and Fire Departments assisted by an employee of the company revealed no further casualties.

Twenty-one persons were seen at the Victoria Hospital on Tuesday evening while one subsequently succumbed to his injury. An additional 9 persons with minor tissue injuries also reported to the Accident and Emergency Department for medical review on Wednesday. Three persons are listed as serious but stable at the Victoria Hospital.

Four persons were airlifted to Martinique on Wednesday. They were facilitated by a 3 member team from Martinique who arrived in Saint Lucia at about 2 am on Wednesday.

The Director, NEMO has been in constant communication with the Prime Minister, and the Acting Cabinet Secretary on the situation and has received support particularly with respect to medical assistance from Martinique.

The Department of Human Services is providing counselling services to the families of individuals who were involved in the incident and are being supported by the Department of the Public Service through the provision of counselling and psychosocial support under the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP).

Investigators from the Fire Department and the Police are currently investigating the incident.

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