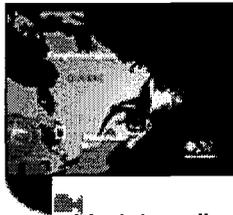




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Mark Lavallee describes the situation [\[Download Players\]](#)

Nine killed in Quebec avalanche

WebPosted Fri Jan 1 21:18:08 1999

KANGIQSUALUJJAQ, QUEBEC - A deadly avalanche that swept through a village in northern Quebec in the early morning hours of Friday has left at least nine people dead..

About 500 hundred people were packed into the town's community centre, celebrating New Year's Eve, when the avalanche hit. About 25 people were injured. Ten of the injured are reported to be in serious condition.

Some of injured airlifted to Montreal

"Snow smashed down one of the walls," said Quebec Provincial Police officer Ronald McInnis. "There's about one to three metres of snow in the gymnasium. Most people were able to get out by themselves. But some people were injured and some died."

The village has two nurses and one doctor. Some of the residents have medical training, but according to the Quebec Provincial Police more qualified personnel are needed..

The Inuit village of Kangiksualujjuaq is about 1,500 kilometres north of Montreal on the edge of Ungava Bay. About 1,000 people live there.

A small plane with supplies and medical personnel landed late Friday morning, from the neighbouring community of Kuujjuak, some 150 kilometers away. Two other aircraft carrying more police officers and search dogs are on their way. A blizzard has made getting other aid into the community difficult.

Twelve of the injured were flown to Montreal for treatment. The other 13 are being treated in Kuujjuak.

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