

Glasgow helicopter crash

Rescuers have removed a helicopter which crashed into a busy Glasgow pub killing at least nine people.

The wreckage of the Police Scotland aircraft was winched from The Clutha, where it came down at 22:25 on Friday.

Police Scotland have said they cannot rule out finding more bodies.

The three helicopter crew died in the incident along with six people inside the pub. Police have released the names of five of the victims. Efforts to identify the others continue.

Following Monday morning's operation, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service tweeted: "Helicopter has now been safely removed which will allow our specialist urban search and rescue crews to continue search of building."

Two of the six victims inside the pub have been named as Samuel McGhee, 56, of Glasgow, and 48-year-old Gary Arthur, from Paisley, Renfrewshire.

The three dead helicopter crew were pilot David Traill, 51, and Police Constables Kirsty Nelis, 36, and Tony Collins, 43.

Deputy Chief Constable Rose Fitzpatrick, speaking at the crash scene early on Monday morning, said: "I can confirm that sadly a further body has tonight been located and removed from the scene."

She added: "Efforts are ongoing as we speak to establish the identity of the latest fatality."

Police Scotland's "absolute priority has been to locate the bodies of people who were within the pub at the time of the incident and recover them safely", she added.

"This process takes time as formal identification procedures have to take place before we can notify relatives and publicly confirm identities."

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde medical director, Dr Jennifer Armstrong, confirmed that of the 32 people who were injured in the crash, 12 remain in hospital.

Eight patients are being treated at Glasgow Royal Infirmary and one patient is at the city's Western Infirmary.

A further two patients have been transferred to the National Queen Elizabeth Spinal Injuries Unit at the Southern General Hospital, taking the total number of patients at that unit to three.

It has been confirmed that Police Scotland will continue to lead the investigation into the crash.

The Independent Police Investigations and Review Commissioner for Scotland said it has had discussions with the Crown Office and the police service and the situation would be kept under review.

A separate investigation into the cause of the crash is being led by the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB).

Its team is being assisted by experts from Eurocopter, which manufactured the EC135 T2 aircraft.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service brought heavy equipment to the crash scene on Sunday and secured the three-tonne helicopter to prevent it sinking

further into the building.

Assistant chief officer David Goodhew told BBC Scotland: "That has allowed our urban search and rescue teams to actually tunnel under the helicopter without fear of it falling any further onto them.

"The helicopter is extensively damaged, but certainly the Air Accident Investigation Branch, who are in charge of lifting the helicopter, want to preserve the evidence.

"They want to make sure that they have absolutely all of the information, and they would like to get the largest part of the helicopter out in one piece."

The family of Mark O'Prey fear he may be one of the victims still buried under the rubble.

His father Ian and sister Louise spent much of Sunday at the crash site waiting for news.

Ms O'Prey told BBC Radio's Good Morning Scotland programme of the family's frustration at the time it has taken to remove the wreckage.

"There is terrible things going through my head about what kind of state he's in and we want to get him back intact," she said.

"We are pretty sure that he's gone but until I get that information we just don't know when that's going to be.

"I can't accept it until then. But there's still that glimmer of hope that they might bring people out alive, even though they are telling us that there is nobody in there alive."

Mr O'Prey criticised the amount of time the recovery operation was taking.

He said: "I thought if they'd made a better attempt on the Saturday night, I thought they perhaps could have got them out a lot earlier than they did but I think they were more concerned about this helicopter."

Scotland's Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon told BBC Scotland firefighters were working as quickly and safely as possible.

"I know that those in the air accident investigation side of this have described this as one of the most complex sites that they've ever worked on," she said.

"It's important that the helicopter is removed in a way that firstly preserves the dignity of the victims inside the pub, but secondly doesn't impose any unnecessary risks on the people carrying out this work.

"I fully and completely understand the frustration and the anguish for people who are waiting for news."

A tributes to the dead and injured continue to be made, Pope Francis said he was praying for the victims and their families.

The Pope's message of sympathy, sent via his ambassador to the UK, Papal Nuncio Archbishop Antonio Mennini, reads: "I would like hereby to convey to you, as Archbishop of Glasgow, the closeness of the Holy Father as well as my most sincere sympathy in these difficult moments.

"I assure you of my prayers for those who have tragically lost their lives or have been injured, as well as their relatives."

Within the city, efforts continue to help survivors and the bereaved.

Glasgow City Council said it had put measures in place to provide financial

assistance to victims of the incident.

Charitable funds administered by the council will be made available to support anyone facing hardship as a result of the tragedy - including casualties and the families of those who lost their lives.

The council said it was already in contact with some of those affected by the incident - and will announce further details of how help will be made available.

The actor Colin McCredie, best known for his role in TV drama Taggart, has also said he plans to organise a concert to raise money for victims and their families.

The Clutha, in Stockwell Street on the banks of the River Clyde, was packed with about 120 people listening to live music when the helicopter crashed into it.