



Brenden Winder: Learning in Action

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Brenden Winder is putting his learning from the Canterbury earthquakes into action in quake-ravaged Nepal as head of a Kiwi team of demolition experts.

Brenden (LINZ Group Manager, Residential Red Zone, Port Hills) is leading a team of ex-CERA staff and contractors who are helping train Nepalese security forces' personnel to carry out large-scale and large-volume demolitions.

In April 2015 a 7.8-magnitude earthquake and several large aftershocks devastated Nepal. Thousands of people lost their lives and thousands more were injured. Nearly one million buildings need to be demolished.

Brenden's experience in emergency management and large-scale project management makes him ideally suited for his Nepalese role. When the February 2011 Canterbury earthquake struck, the Civil Defence National Controller brought Brenden in on secondment from Queenstown, where he had been working with the local district council. As the Civil Defence response in Christchurch wound down, Brenden joined CERA, taking responsibility for government projects inside the CBD red zone cordon, and operational security in the residential red zone. He managed crown activities, including demolitions in the CBD red zone and the Port Hills – all up, he ensured that over 7000 crown assets were kept protected and secure until they were demolished.



Late last year, as CERA functions were transitioned to other government agencies Brenden joined LINZ, where he continues to manage over 600 crown-owned, hazardous sites in the Port Hills area.

Brenden learned of the Nepalese training need through a colleague who was recently based in Kathmandu and has ties with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The IOM is normally involved in establishing infrastructure such as refugee camps but, due to the scale of the disaster in Nepal, the organisation was asked by the Nepali Government and the United Nations Development Programme to manage some of the demolitions.

Brenden departed for Kathmandu on 28 May 2016, and returns on 12 June. *"The focus of the Kiwi team will be on the demolitions that IOM are responsible for, about 22,000 buildings of three to six stories," he says. "They're more complex to demolish than typical residential buildings but not so big as to require specialist heavy equipment to be brought in."*

It is understood that the job of clearing and rebuilding structures may take decades; however putting hard-earned expertise like Brenden's into action will help Nepal's journey to recovery.

Brenden participated in the CERA Recovery Lessons and Legacy Project and his key learnings are captured in *Contractor safety inside the cordon* and *Guidelines for a Cordon* available on the EQ Recovery Learning website.

