

WSC Case Study

Bima Earthquake

September 2009



Lyndon using the Iridium 9505a

Wright Satellite Connections (WSC) is proud to have provided Lyndon Tamblyn with satellite communication equipment for his latest emergency relief mission.

Lyndon travelled to Indonesia's Sumbawa Island in November 2009 as part of an emergency relief team to assist the local community in recovery from a 6.7 magnitude quake. As well as coordinating support movements, Lyndon reported back using the supplied Iridium 9505a satellite handset.

A strong earthquake struck Indonesia's Sumbawa Island at 3.41 am local time on November 9th. The US Geological Survey Centre said the epicentre of the 6.7 magnitude quake was 15 km NNW of Raba, Sumbawa at a depth of 18 km.

Of the 18 districts in the Bima Regency, 5 districts were reported to have been damaged by the earthquake. No Tsunami warning was issued.

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At the time of arrival it was reported that 2 people had died, 88 had sustained serious injuries, 280 houses damaged plus 4 hospitals and 1 school were affected. The national Disaster Ministry were reporting 23 million Rupees of damage as a result of the quake.

The team brief was to carry out a reconnaissance and assessment for a possible Shelterbox response to the people affected by the earthquake. They were also to determine if there was assistance being made by other agencies, NGO or government, to the affected people.

Working with Shelterbox, the international relief agency, Lyndon used the Iridium 9505a for coordination of relief, supplies, distribution, and other communications which were sent as either SMS or text messages, or calls themselves.

The handset was also used to send back blog updates and emails to support crew back in New Zealand. Lyndon commented, "The Iridium 9505a worked brilliantly for sending back blog updates and emails to the Shelterbox website. Fantastic stuff."

On the Shelterbox website he comments, "The Iridium 9505a satellite phone can be used all over the world and was a critical tool in the relief mission. The Iridium network allows people at home to text an Iridium phone from WSC's website for free. This is a great service so that people can ask questions, or simply send encouragement."

To find out more about Lyndon's travels, and the international relief agency Shelterbox please visit www.shelterbox.org.nz