



PROPERTY RESTORATION

**Case Study: ELLET HIGH SCHOOL  
Akron, Ohio**

**Loss Event:** Fire

**Damage:** Fire and smoke damage in classrooms, hallway and elevator.

**THE PROBLEM**

On a late Saturday evening, a two-alarm fire started in Ellet High School. Although firefighters were able to extinguish the fire quickly, structural and smoke damage affected nine classrooms, two hallways, and elevators. The most significant damage was found in the woodshop or carpentry classroom that houses the Construction program of the school's College and Career Education curriculum.

**THE SOLUTION**

BELFOR quickly mobilized 20-plus workers to stabilize the environment, perform emergency services and get the classrooms back in operation so that students did not have to be relocated to another school.

After crews completed initial water extraction, demolition and cleanup, several containment walls were built so classes could resume while renovations and recovery efforts were underway. The age of the school led to multiple code upgrades and environmental challenges.

Within two weeks, all nine classrooms and common areas were back in service. Additional electrical and structural repairs were made to the carpentry classroom.

At the request of school district administration, BELFOR worked closely with Ellet High School students in the Construction program to provide them with real-life project experience. The students were able to draft construction plans and help with the rebuild.



*"My carpentry shop was very unfortunate to have a fire during the second week of school. BELFOR Property Restoration was chosen for the demolition and renovation.*

*I am pleased to let you know that the BELFOR employees were very professional with every phase of the job. The employees treated me and my students with the utmost of respect during the entire project. The professionalism demonstrated during the entire project served as a great teaching tool to ready my students for employment after graduation.*

*Akron Public Schools and BELFOR Property Restoration worked together to reach an agreement that allowed the students to work and participate during the renovation process. The students drew the blueprint for the office that had to be completely rebuilt and from there, they actively participated in the construction to see the plans become reality. They worked with the tradesmen helping to install drywall and ceiling grid, and they took safety classes on the use of the electric lift. The hands-on learning that took place after the unfortunate fire was truly an example of when life gives you lemons make lemonade."*

**LES BAKER**  
Carpentry Instructor  
Ellet High School  
Akron Public Schools

**24/7 Emergency Number**  
**800-856-3333**

Corporate Headquarters:  
185 Oakland Ave., Suite 150  
Birmingham, MI 48009-3433  
Toll Free: 888.421.4111  
Direct : 248.594.1144  
www.belfor.com

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