

## **COOPER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY**

### **Quick Response Is Critical for School Facility Damage**

It's an emotional time in any community when a local school is damaged by fire, smoke, water or weather. Bringing a facility back to life requires a unique set of skills. Not only does the work need to be done quickly to minimize a school closure, but also the structure needs to be restored for both functionality and maximum safety. Since 1950, school districts and municipalities throughout Oregon and southwest Washington have relied on the highly specialized skills of Cooper Construction Company to restore educational facilities after devastating damage.

“One of our specialties is school structures damaged by fire, smoke or water,” according to Rod Ramsour, vice president of Cooper Construction Company. “As a restoration contractor we have restored more than 20 facilities in just the last 14 months, and hundreds of schools since we began in 1950. A restoration project may be as minor as a gym roof that blew off in a winter storm, or as destructive as a massive fire with structural, equipment and contents damage.”

No matter what the circumstance, the emergency response crews at Cooper Construction are on call 24 hours a day. Once they arrive on scene, they evaluate the damage, often when the fire crews are still present. Next, they secure the facility to keep people from entering. The restoration process begins by removing the damaged contents including equipment, furniture and building materials. Items that can be cleaned or restored are cataloged and removed. From start to finish, Cooper Construction manages the entire restoration project. Their in-depth skills as a general contractor, as well as their expert staff of carpentry, drywall and painting craftsmen, provide a single solution for a multitude of tasks.

Not only do they have the crews on 24-hour alert for emergency events, but they also have the equipment necessary to act fast and mitigate damage. Air scrubbers, ozone machines, drying systems and thermo fogging equipment are put in place to remove smoke odors, dry out walls and flooring, and treat the restorable contents.

An ozone chamber at the company's headquarters is used to remove smoke odors from smaller items such as curtains, clothing, books or paper.

In most cases the restored structure is in better shape than before the damage. With new building codes, seismic requirements, ADA upgrades and more advanced mechanical and electrical systems, Cooper Construction not only restores the structure, but also brings it up to current building standards.

"It's all about timing," according to Ramsour. "We never know where we will be working next. But, you have to be ready to move at a moment's notice and have the skill and knowledge to begin immediate restoration. Quick response and the work of our highly skilled employees, I believe, is the secret to successfully serving clients for more than 60 years."



Before: Otto Petersen Elementary

A fire started by a science project damaged six classrooms in this school. Three months of work by Cooper Construction Co., specialists in fire, water and smoke

damage, restored the classrooms and this 50 year-old building to better shape than before the fire.



After: Otto Petersen Elementary