

**Situation:**

Jefferson County School District issued an RFQ for ongoing restoration needs throughout the district. About the same time, a fire, set by an arsonist, resulted in the evacuation of 1,850 students, school closing and \$2.5 million in damage at Bear Creek High School. One year prior to this occurrence, the high school was closed for a few days due to another fire.

**Challenge:**

The first fire caused \$1.2 million in physical and smoke damage to the ceramics room and an adjoining classroom. The second two-alarm blaze caused structural damage to the gym and spread smoke damage throughout the rest of the school. Environmental specialists were needed to clean up smoke damage and handle asbestos abatement.



Adding to the clean up requirements, a new high school was being built so the school district, insurers and its remediation partner were tasked to come up with a plan safely returning students to the classroom without spending an inordinate amount of money into a building that was scheduled for demolition within a year.

**Solution:**

Because of prior relationships with BELFOR following of the Columbine High School shooting, BELFOR was top-of-mind when the Bear Creek fires occurred. Jefferson County hired BELFOR Property Restoration, which brought BELFOR Environmental to the fire scenes to remediate smoke damage and abate asbestos.

And because the only RFQ respondent who had in-house asbestos capabilities (BELFOR Environmental) was BELFOR Property Restoration, they won the contract for ongoing work as well.

**Results:**

Having in-house resources for environmental services work resulted in incremental revenue for BELFOR USA. BELFOR Environmental came in below its "not-to-exceed number" on the second Bear Creek fire. This allowed BELFOR Property Restoration to reallocate dollars toward other areas of the restoration without exceeding the bid. The client was also pleased that BELFOR teams worked within time constraints to accommodate school schedules. To date, Jefferson County has spent close to \$6 million with BELFOR.

BELFOR teams cleaned up smoke, asbestos and structural damage in 60% of the building allowing students to resume classes just one week after the second fire occurred.

*"I have worked with BELFOR Environmental on jobs involving both asbestos abatement and hazardous material cleanup. They are responsive, professional and work efficiently in the most complicated and difficult of circumstances. They really listen to our needs as well as the clients' and work with us to put together a complementary project plan. They can also provide an extension of experienced labor that benefits our customers immensely in quick-turn situations. BELFOR Environmental consistently comes in on time and on budget. I can count on them to do the work right the first time and I have full confidence they will represent us well in front of the client."*

**Vernon Duty, National Account Manager, BELFOR Property Restoration**