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## At Brook Restoration, you can't fake it to make it

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### Contractor sets industry standard for safety and training



Brook Restoration recently passed the 730-day mark, accident free. 730-day mark, accident free.

That's quite a feat, considering how many pairs of boots the restoration contractor has on the ground, and in the air, on any give day at job sites across Ontario.

The award-winning Brook team includes more than 300 skilled craftsmen, dedicated labourers and strategic managers available to provide service anywhere in Ontario from its offices in

Toronto and Ottawa.

And not a single one of them is allowed on a job site anywhere unless they have passed a minimum of six courses through Brook's own industry-certified training school.

"These are not online courses, or theoretical exercises out of a book," said Gary Roodman, Brook's Ottawa General Manager. "It's a practical, hands-on curriculum in which each participant must demonstrate their competency to meet the grade."

### High expectations

"Hands-on" is the word. Brook has in Toronto a dedicated training facility with a classroom that can take 30+ students at a time, and a warehouse in which participants train on the actual equipment they will use in the field. They are drilled on proper setup, operation and

maintenance. There is even a fully functional swing stage, on which participants are thrown into simulated scenarios they might face on a job site.

“Anyone who walks in the door must prove themselves in our training facility,” Roodman said. “Their resume alone won’t cut it. You can’t fake it at Brook.”

Brook trains on more than just safety related to job site activities and equipment use. It offers first-aid and awareness training on such diverse topics as lead and asbestos, interpreting Ministry of Labour regulations, spill control, fire safety and prevention, violence in the workplace and skin cancer risk when working outdoors.

This approach is rare in an industry where investing in safety and training beyond the minimum required by law often comes second, if all at, to keeping workers busy on a job site.

But Brook is a big business with big obligations to its workforce and to its clients. It just makes good business sense to make the right investments in its people and equipment to reduce liability. It will gladly pay to have part of its workforce in a classroom for a few days at a time, earning full hourly rates, than take the risk.

### **‘Close enough’ doesn’t cut it**

This sharp focus extends to the job site, where Brook retains an independent safety consultant to ensure conformity with industry safety requirements, as well as its own stringent guidelines, with daily inspections. The consultant is given the same authority as an inspector from the Ontario Ministry of Labour and can immediately shut down all activity on the job site should they have a reason for concern.

Brook also uses tablets on the jobsite to provide up-to-the-minute updates on site conditions, and all foremen are required to submit multiple daily documents over and above the standards required by law.

“There is no grey area for us,” Roodman said. “No ‘close enough.’ Safety first – that’s the bottom line.”

### **Find out more**

To discuss your project needs, visit [www.brookrestoration.ca](http://www.brookrestoration.ca) or call Gary Roodman at 613-796-9913