



GROUND WIND SHEARS CAN'T DAMAGE DURO-LAST ROOF ON KENOWA HILLS SCHOOL

When the Kenowa Hills School District in Grand Rapids, Michigan selected the Duro-Last roofing system to be placed on all nine schools in its district, Building and Grounds Supervisor Harry Kapp knew that their investment would pay off – big time.

“We had tried several different roofing systems and nothing worked ” Kapp said. “Plus, I had dealt with the Duro-Last roofing system in previous positions, so I knew that we could trust it.

“It was only two days after Jim Bush, president of Weather Shield Roofing Systems, Inc. (Grand Rapids, Michigan) and his crew had completed the 105,000 square foot roof on Kenowa Hills Junior High School, that Duro-Last proved its tremendous value.”

On Sunday, May 31, 1998 at approximately 5 a.m., a weather phenomenon known as a ground wind shear struck the community of Kenowa, leaving a horrific path of destruction.

“Although there was actually no tornado reported, winds of over 120 m.p.h. were recorded,” recalled Kapp. “As the strong winds swept through the school grounds, trees were sheared off and flying debris heavily damaged

the structure of the school. Yet the Duro-Last roofing system stayed strong and did not fail.”

According to Bush, the high winds ripped a portion of the school’s steel deck from the bar joists, with the Duro-Last roof still firmly attached to it, and sent it flying approximately 100 feet where it landed on the school’s cafeteria roof.

“When the steel deck landed, it crashed right through the cafeteria roof, causing the walls to blow out,” Bush stated. “Yet the Duro-Last roofing system was still attached to the decking and intact!

“It was like a band of destruction came through but the Duro-Last roofing system held fast,” he added.

Following the Sunday morning storm, Bush and his crew returned to the school to get an overview of the damage.

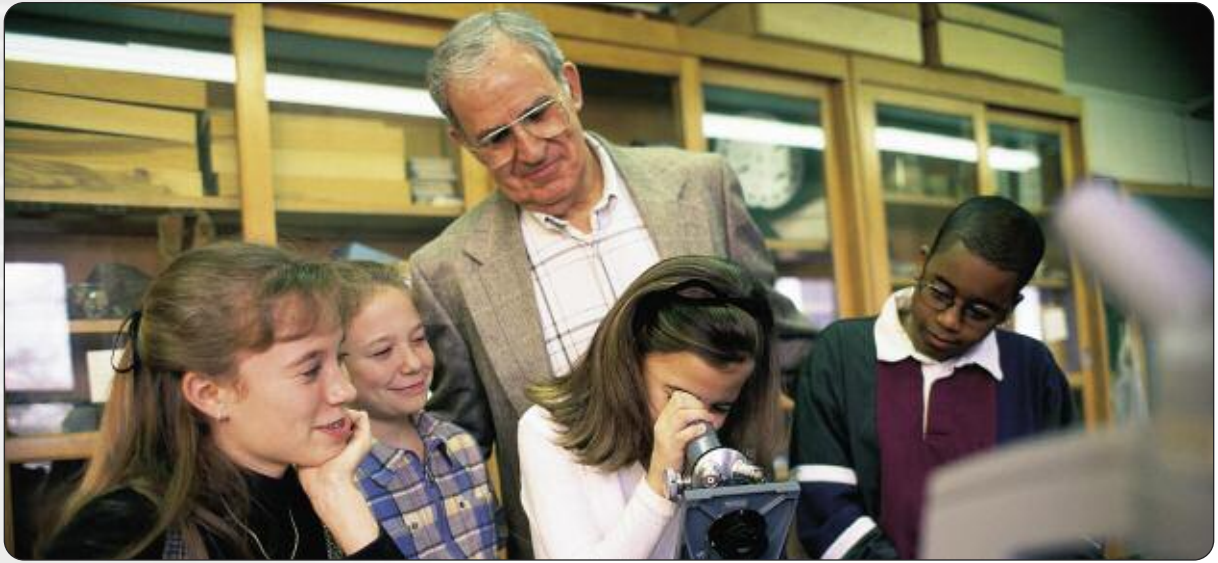


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Within 24 hours, Weather Shield was starting repair work on damage caused by flying debris from the school grounds and surrounding area.

"We actually found shingles embedded through the sides of the steel air conditioners," Bush recalled.

Because of the extensive damage to the school's roof deck and damage to the new roof from flying debris, the entire roof had to be replaced with another new one.

Two identical buildings owned by the school district and located directly across from the junior high also received damage.

"One of the buildings had a Duro-Last roof and the other another type of roofing system," Bush stated. "The Duro-Last roof had little damage while the other roof was lying in the parking lot."

For Kapp (who has since retired), having the Duro-Last roofing system on all of the Kenowa schools gave him peace of mind knowing that whatever the weather conditions, the "World's Best Roof"® would prevail.

Plus, Kapp acknowledged the Duro-Last roofing system is excellent for educational buildings because it is non-ballasted, can be easily repaired, and will provide watertight protection for many school years to come.

"Basically, that's why I insisted on Duro-Last. I never had a problem with it," Kapp said. "Duro-Last is clearly the best roofing system and the best value."

If you have a flat or low-sloped roof on your educational complex, call Duro-Last and you'll find out like the rest of America: the Duro-Last roofing system scores an A+ for durability, integrity, and resistance to chemicals, fire, and high winds.



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