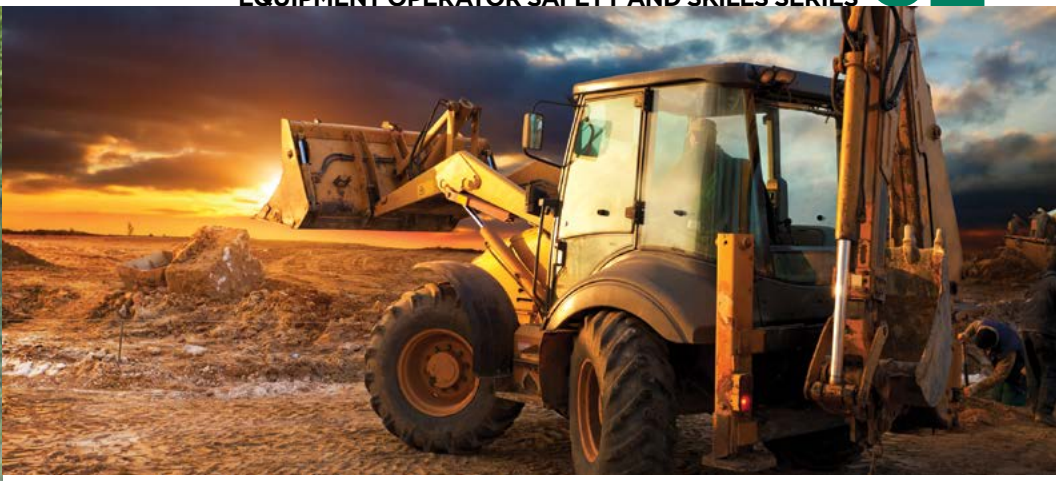
EQUIPMENT OPERATOR SAFETY AND SKILLS SERIES Q&A

Who provides the Training? What is their experience?

AORS has partnered with **Ground Force Training Inc. (GFTI)** to provide this important training to our members and clients. Ground Force Training instructors are selected for their extensive hands-on experience and proven ability as trainers. Many have accumulated thousands of hours operating equipment under real-world conditions across a wide range of industries and environments. Each instructor is thoroughly vetted to ensure they meet our high standards for safety, communication, and instructional skill. Our team brings both practical knowledge and teaching expertise to every course, ensuring relevant, effective, and up-to-date training aligned with current regulations and industry expectations.

GFTI professional instructor observing a student's progress during a practical lesson.



What are the benefits of Equipment Operator Safety and Skills Series Training?

The benefits of equipment operator training can flow through to all levels of an organization. Over time this type of training will ensure that the objectives for due diligence and efficient maintenance of the corporate equipment inventory are met by:

- Developing training program documentation to meet Legislative (i.e. Occupational Health and Safety) requirements.
- Developing safe operators who are less prone to accidents
- Reducing wear or damage to equipment
- Reducing damage to private property
- Increasing maintenance activity productivity.

What does a typical program look like? How much classroom? How much seat time?

Classroom/Theory

Equipment courses begin with a classroom/theory course (approx. 4-7 hours depending on equipment) for all trainees at your venue, online or a location within close proximity to your operations depot. This will allow staff to begin their training process with minimal scheduling difficulties. Once the classroom training has been completed the task specific, site specific (practical) training will be scheduled to meet corporate operational staff requirements.

Practical/Hands-on

This is the practical hands on (i.e. seat time) portion of the training and is referred to as 'active learning' or learning by doing. Trainees will be provided practical hours, based on equipment and operator experience level, to practice the skills and information they are learning, to maximize retention. For example, in the case of Tractor Loader Backhoe, Motor Grader or Excavator, the recommended seat/in-cab training time is 14+hours for a novice operator or 7 hours for an operator with over two years' experience.

Trainers will provide constructive feedback and reinforcement and relate the training to job requirements. Therefore, trainees will immediately be able to apply their new knowledge and skills gained in the training session directly into their job environment.

What is the student/instructor ratio? What is the student/ equipment ratio?

We want to make this training as cost-effective and productive as possible. Our trainers want everyone participating and learning. Unlike other training programs, there is no 'shared' equipment. Each student will operate their own equipment—supplied by the Municipality—for the entire training program. That is a ratio of 1:1 (student: equipment). Each group of 3 students will have their own instructor. That is a ratio of 3:1 (student: instructor). That is the best in the business! The students are there to learn and have fun in a positive adult learning environment and we will make sure that they do!

Where does the training take place?

We come to you! The training takes place in your area or Municipality within close proximity to your Operations Depot to avoid expensive transportation and accommodation costs.

How much do these programs cost?

As a result of the AORS/GFTI affiliation we are able to offer these programs at a very reasonable rate. If requested, after direct consultations with you we provide confidential quotations based on your specific operational requirements. We want to make sure that the program developed for your staff is relevant and cost-effective. Our trainers want to 'hit the ground running' when they arrive at your facility!

Are the programs customizable?

Classroom and/or practical topics covered can be customized to meet client needs, student experience, or to address challenges. In addition to offering in-person training, most classroom topics are available via live webinars or by completing eLearning modules which are self-paced.