

Current Technology® TransGuard® knocks electrical surges out of McCoy Stadium

When a lightning-induced surge threw a curve ball at McCoy Stadium, ballpark administrators returned a grand slam.

The stadium is the home of the Pawtucket Red Sox, the AAA farm team of the Boston Red Sox. The ballpark in Pawtucket, R.I., has been a stepping stone to the Major Leagues for players like Wade Boggs and Roger Clemens.

The stadium is also the site of the longest game in baseball history when the PawSox battled the Rochester Red Wings for 33 innings before capturing a 3-2 victory.

Each year thousands of faithful fans pack the stadium as they

have since 1942 eager to watch up-and-coming players and enjoy America's favorite pastime. But a thunderstorm put a costly damper on the 2000 season.

The stadium had just completed a \$20 million renovation project the year before that brought the park state-of-the-art electronics and increased its seating capacity from 6,000 to 10,031.

"Because we had a lot more electronic equipment than before, it seemed like we became a lightning magnet," said Mick Tedesco, vice president of stadium operations.

Strike One

In June of the 2000 season, a lightning-induced surge damaged all of the microprocessor-based equipment in the ballpark, including the new fire alarm system, electronic scoreboard and public announcement system. The damage was estimated at \$18,000.

"We wanted to stop that from happening again," he said. "We looked into various options and decided the best thing to do was to put Current Technology® surge suppression at low-voltage areas."

McCoy Stadium installed TransGuard® surge suppression units on each of the six branch panels to protect the stadium's equipment. In addition to the lightning-induced surge, the stadium was experiencing frequent electrical surges from its utility.

Clutch Hitter

TransGuard shields against downtime and equipment damage resulting from routine or catastrophic electrical disturbances. The unit's Failure-Free Integrated Suppression Bus®

allows for uninterrupted protection at higher surge current levels, and fused metal oxide varistors ensure seamless product performance. The suppressor's heavy-duty filter capacitors offer the best high-frequency noise and transient filtering available.

In addition to safeguarding equipment, surge suppression also helps protect ballpark patrons.

"Our biggest concern is the safety of the fans, so we need everything working at 100 percent," he said. "In an emergency, we use the lights and the scoreboard to evacuate the stadium, so it's of utmost importance that our equipment is functioning properly at all times."

Bases Covered

Storms may still rain-out PawSox games, but surges no longer pose a threat to the ballpark.

"We haven't had any problems since we installed Current Technology surge suppression," Tedesco said. "And that allows us to concentrate on more important things, like baseball."



Current Technology® TransGuard® protects McCoy Stadium from harmful electrical surges.



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