

Closing the Gap on Electrical Risks in Data Centers

About Sturgeon Electric

Sturgeon Electric is a Colorado-based electrical contractor and subsidiary of MYR Group — one of the largest electrical contractors in North America. The company performs large-scale commercial and industrial electrical work across Colorado, Arizona and beyond, including major data center construction projects. Sturgeon operates within an interconnected MYR network that also includes CSI (California) and Western Pacific Enterprises (Vancouver).

Sturgeon's field crews regularly encounter complex electrical environments: multi-contractor job sites, LOTO-intensive commissioning work, medium-voltage systems, and data center buildouts where energized equipment is always nearby. These conditions made Sturgeon an ideal candidate to evaluate Proxxi wristbands as a supplemental electrical safety layer.

The Challenge

Sturgeon Electric's field operations involve some of the most hazardous electrical environments in the industry. Key safety challenges included:

- Multi-voltage environments on a single site — crews working simultaneously around medium voltage, 480V, 277V, and 208V systems.
- Complex LOTO rooms where multiple crews from different contractors converge.
- Secondary power sources — generating stations and data center infrastructure that could energize unexpectedly after teams believe they have established a safe environment.
- Varying experience levels — apprentices through journeymen and foremen working together, requiring adaptable safety tools.
- Workforce considerations — Sturgeon wanted a solution that would not require Journeymen and Apprentices to use their personal devices.

The goal was to find a supplemental **last-line-of-defense tool** that could work within these operational realities **without disrupting established safety protocols or LOTO procedures.**

The Solution: Proxxi Wristbands

Grace Technologies introduced the Proxxi by Grace wristband to Sturgeon's field teams as a voluntary, foreman-managed safety layer. Rather than requiring individual workers to manage devices, Sturgeon adopted a shared-device model well-suited to their union environment:

- Foremen manages a pool of 8–10 wristbands per crew.
- Bands are distributed at the start of each shift when crews are working around where energization is possible.
- The foreman controls the mobile app, sets voltage configurations, and collects usage data.
- No requirement for individual workers to use personal smartphones.



Initial settings were standardized at 480V, appropriate for the majority of Sturgeon's commercial and industrial environments. Bands are used alongside — never instead of — established test-before-touch procedures and LOTO protocols.

Key Successes

1. Foreman-Managed Model

Sturgeon works collaboratively with their team members to make safe work practices the default. The MYR Sturgeon leadership team wanted to focus on a quick, straightforward deployment model lead by the on site manager. They decided to wristband use a foreman-managed shared-device model to directly address this:

- Foremen take ownership of band configuration and distribution
- Workers receive an already-configured band — that they can put to immediate use - no extra steps
- Adoption friction reduced to near-zero for the field workforce

This deployment model is now being codified into training documentation to serve as a framework for other MYR subsidiaries.

3. Leadership Buy-In Drove Enterprise Commitment

The pilot successfully engaged Sturgeon's leadership team — including an Operations VP, Senior Project Leads and Health & Safety Directors. This elevated the conversation from a field trial to a strategic safety investment. Key outcomes of leadership engagement:

- Direct commitment to expansion across further business units
- Leadership personally volunteering to introduce the product to other major business units.
- COO was briefed on pilot results for company-wide roll out

4. Positive Field Feedback Across All Pilot Users

Feedback from the pilot group was consistently positive. Highlights included:

- Strong consensus that the device is an excellent last line of defense
- The most engaged user — synced his band regularly, experimented with settings, and provided the richest usage data
- Workers praised the ability to detect secondary power sources that other tools missed
- Feedback on nuisance alarms was constructive, not negative — teams quickly learned usage discipline

Conclusion

By integrating the Proxxi Band into their day to day operations, Sturgeon Electric ensures both worker safety and the trust of its team, paving the way for continued operational excellence.