



NEWS RELEASE

MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COMPANY

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MMWEC Brings Electrical Safety Program to Campers at Ludlow Boys and Girls Club

Ludlow, MA – July 18, 2018 -- Campers at the Randall Boys and Girls Club in Ludlow aren't just having fun in the sun this summer. They're also learning about electrical safety through a multi-day safety education program offered by safety expert Ray Gouley and sponsored by the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company.

Several hundred children, from preschool age through middle school age, participated in the program. MMWEC has sponsored the program for over 11 years, and offers a similar electrical and gas safety program at the Ludlow Senior Center each year.

Using age- and developmentally-appropriate information and props, Gouley teaches the children how to stay safe around electricity in an engaging way.

The youngest children are introduced to "Mr. Ouch," a cartoon character who teaches them to "Stop, Think and Stay Away" when learning how to be safe around outlets, cords, electrical appliances and power lines. In addition, older children are taught why it's never safe to play near power lines and substations, and what to do if they are in a car accident that results in downed power lines.

The lessons hit home for the children, who received an up-close look at objects involved in electrical accidents, such as video game controllers hit by lightning and a damaged water gun that was used to spray water at a power line.

Mechilia Salazar, President & CEO of the Randall Boys and Girls Club, said Gouley's messaging on such an important topic was not only fun, it was empowering to the club's young members.

"The sessions were not just about listing out a bunch of things that young people shouldn't do or shouldn't touch," Salazar said. "Ray armed our young people with powerful knowledge and left them with the sense that they are now able to help protect themselves and others around them."

Campers also learned about familiar electrical safety myths, what to do in a thunderstorm and how to detect a natural gas leak. The material was reinforced through interactive games and activities.

The program concluded with the arrival of a bucket truck courtesy of a local municipal utility. Gouley and local line workers explained safety equipment and procedures while demonstrating the safe operation of the bucket truck.

MMWEC is proud to sponsor this event every year, said CEO Ronald C. DeCurzio.

"It's important that children learn how to be safe around electricity, and this program starts introducing the subject at a very young age," DeCurzio said. "We are happy to support this valuable program and the children in our community."

MMWEC, a corporate resident of Ludlow for over 40 years, is a non-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts created by an Act of the General Assembly in 1975 and authorized to issue debt to finance a wide range of energy facilities. MMWEC provides a variety of power supply, financial, risk management and other services to the state's consumer-owned, municipal utilities.

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