



## NEWS RELEASE

MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COMPANY

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### **MMWEC Supports Safety Program for Randall Boys & Girls Club Campers**

Ludlow, MA – July 11, 2022- Campers at the Randall Boys & Girls Club have improved their electrical safety knowledge thanks to an educational program taught by safety expert Ray Gouley from the R.F. Gouley Company. The program is sponsored by the Ludlow-based Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC).

This year, 150 children aged three to 13 from the towns of Ludlow, Belchertown, Chicopee, Wilbraham, Indian Orchard, Ware, and Palmer participated in the electrical safety program. MMWEC has sponsored the workshop for more than 14 years and holds a similar electrical and gas pipeline safety presentation with the Ludlow Senior Center annually.

Gouley opens his presentations with an interactive safety video featuring electrical accidents. He pauses the video periodically to explain what would be a safe choice each step of the way. To reinforce the importance of his safety lessons, Gouley also shows the campers props from actual electrical accidents he has investigated. This year's presentation featured a fried power strip that caught fire after being overloaded, a super soaker water gun that melted after being aimed at a power line, and a bike tire that melted after being ridden near a downed transmission line.

Due to the large age range of campers, Gouley adapts his presentation based on the campers' ages. Preschoolers, the youngest group, are introduced to a squirrel cartoon character named "Mr. Ouch" and taught the simple phrase "Stop, Think, and Stay Away" to respond to various electrical incidents. Older children are given more specific instructions on how to react in electric safety situations, such as unplugging a toaster before trying to remove stuck toast, staying out of the shower during lightning storms, and staying three poles away from downed electrical wires or car accidents near transmission lines.

The safety presentations concluded with a visit from employees from the South Hadley Electric Light Department (SHELD). Peter Jesionowski, working foreman, and Chris Desjeans, second class lineman, brought SHELD's bucket truck to the Boys and Girls Club campus to demonstrate how the truck is used to reach power lines during accidents or power outages.

Randall Boys & Girls Club President and Chief Executive Officer Mechilia Salazar said the electrical safety presentations have a positive impact on the campers.

"We live in a world that is full of distractions and constantly has us hurrying," Salazar said. "That's why we are always grateful to have Ray visit each summer. His fun and engaging presentations are important reminders and empower our youth to make the right choices to keep themselves and others around them safe."

Salazar added that she received positive feedback from the campers about how they enjoyed learning how to navigate different electrical safety situations.

***Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company, 327 Moody St., Ludlow, MA 01056***

“Electrical safety is of the utmost importance and it is pivotal to teach children at all ages and reinforce those teachings throughout the years to help prevent potential accidents,” MMWEC Chief Executive Officer Ron DeCurzio said.

“MMWEC is pleased to sponsor such a crucial program for the children of the Ludlow community and beyond.”

MMWEC 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 tax-exempt 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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