



NEWS RELEASE

MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COMPANY

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MMWEC Brings Safety Program to Randall Boys & Girls Club Campers

Ludlow, MA – July 8, 2019- Campers at the Randall Boys & Girls Club in Ludlow learned the dos and don'ts of electrical safety, thanks to a multi-day electrical safety educational workshop led by safety professional Ray Gouley from the R.F. Gouley Company. The program is sponsored by the Ludlow-based Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC).

More than 150 children aged 3 to 14 from the towns of Ludlow, Belchertown, Chicopee, Indian Orchard, Palmer, South Hadley, and Springfield participated in the program. MMWEC has sponsored the workshop for more than 12 years and also holds a similar electrical and gas pipeline safety presentation with the Ludlow Senior Center each spring.

Using a variety of props, videos, and posters, Gouley teaches the children how to properly respond to electricity, particularly in the cases of emergencies. The youngest participants, preschoolers, are taught the phrase "Stop, Think, and Stay Away," as a code of action for what to do when there is an electrical accident or situation. Older children are given step-by-step instructions such as staying three poles-length away from accidents involving electrical poles, dialing 911, and refraining from using water to put out electrical fires.

To emphasize the importance of complying with electrical safety, Gouley shows children different objects from electrical accidents such as a baseball bat that was struck by lightning and a hair dryer that was exposed to water and caught on fire.

Campers were also taught electrical safety tidbits that will help them prevent emergencies, such as looking up for wires before flying a kite or climbing a tree, moving to the basement during a lightning storm, and avoiding baths or showers until 30 minutes after a storm has passed.

Boys & Girls Club camper Nathaniel David, a fourth grader, said he learned how important it is to be safe.

"I enjoyed learning about different wires and what they can do. Doing different things with them can lead to different consequences," David said.

On the last day of the workshop, preschool-aged children were visited by South Hadley Electric Light Department linemen Dennis Canavan and Larry Fisher, who brought the department's bucket truck to demonstrate how they would respond if a power line came down or needed to be serviced.

To ensure children remember the important safety lesson, Gouley routinely quizzed them on what they had just learned and awarded those who retained the electrical safety knowledge.

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

Remembering those safety tips could be life-changing. Earlier this year, a school bus from Littleville Elementary School in Russell, Mass. was involved in a crash that involved an electrical pole. The students, who had participated in Gouley's safety program, knew to stay inside the bus until the electric company came to shut off the power, preventing further injuries, Gouley said.

Randall Boys & Girls Club CEO Mechilia Salazar said she appreciates how the presentation leaves lasting impacts on the campers.

"Today, more than ever before, child safety is paramount bar none," Salazar said. "We are huge proponents of arming our young people with the knowledge to advocate and protect themselves. The electrical safety days empowers youth of all ages to understand the often hidden dangers amongst their everyday activities, and keep themselves and their loved ones safe."

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 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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