



NEWS RELEASE

MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COMPANY

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MMWEC Continues Support of Safety Program for Randall Boys & Girls Club Campers

Ludlow, MA – July 6, 2023- Campers at the Randall Boys & Girls Club in Ludlow are spending part of their summer learning the ins and outs of electrical safety through participation in educational programs 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, 114 children aged three to 13 from the towns of Belchertown, Chicopee, Granby, Indian Orchard, Ludlow, Monson, South Hadley, Springfield, Thorndike, Ware, and Wilbraham participated in the program, which spanned five days in June. MMWEC has sponsored the workshop for more than 15 years and holds a similar electrical and gas pipeline safety presentation for the Ludlow Senior Center annually.

Gouley utilizes several different types of media during his presentations including posters, videos, and props. The presentations begin with an interactive safety video that takes children through each step of an electrical accident and guides them on how to respond. Gouley periodically pauses the video and asks campers what they think the next move should be. He then holds up posters that explain different elements of electrical safety such as the step potential of electric voltage and how and when to call 911. To further demonstrate the importance of electrical safety, Gouley shows the campers props from actual electrical accidents. He explains to them what happened and how the accident could have been avoided. This year's presentation featured a lacrosse stick that had been thrown at a transformer, a drone that flew too close to a power line and melted, and a shovel that was used to dig near an underground utility line.

Due to the large age range of campers, Gouley adjusts 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 staying three poles away from a damaged utility pole and keeping electronics away from bathtubs and sinks. At the end of each presentation, Gouley quizzes campers on what they have learned.

The safety presentations concluded with a visit from South Hadley Electric Light Department (SHELD) employees. Linemen Brian Jerome and Chris Desjeans 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.

"Electrical safety awareness is paramount at every age and reinforcing it annually helps to prevent dangerous incidents," MMWEC Chief Executive Officer Ron DeCurzio says. "MMWEC is proud to sponsor such a pivotal program for the greater Ludlow community."

Randall Boys & Girls Club President and Chief Executive Officer Josue Irizarry agrees.

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

“The safety presentations provide an excellent opportunity to empower young learners with the knowledge and skills needed to keep themselves and others safe and reduce the likelihood of a child entering into an unsafe situation,” Irizarry says.

MMWEC is a not-for-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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