



NEWS RELEASE

MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COMPANY

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MMWEC Educates Randall Boys & Girls Club Campers on Electrical Safety

Ludlow, MA – July 9, 2024- Campers at the Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club are now equipped to prevent electrical safety accidents thanks to a presentation 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, 160 children aged three to 13 from the Massachusetts communities of Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Indian Orchard, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, South Hadley, Springfield, Ware, Wilbraham, as well as Enfield, CT participated in the program, which spanned four days in June and July. MMWEC has sponsored the workshop for more than 16 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. 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 toaster that caught fire after a fork was inserted into it.

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. This year's presentation featured a new segment on lithium battery safety and the importance of knowing when and where drones can be flown to avoid contact with electrical lines.

The safety presentations concluded with a visit from South Hadley Electric Light Department (SHELD) employees. First Class Lineman Brian Jerome and Working Foreman Jon Szymonik brought SHELD's bucket truck to the Boys and Girls Club campus to explain how the truck is used to reach power lines during accidents or power outages.

Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club President and Chief Executive Officer Josue Irizarry says the campers enjoy learning from Gouley each year.

"Each year, our children look forward to the electrical safety presentation at the Club," Irizarry says. "It is important that our children learn these skills and are reminded on what to do in case of an emergency. We are thankful for everything MMWEC does for the Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club," 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 Court 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. It is the largest provider of asset-owned generation for municipal light departments in New England.

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