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MMWEC Brings Electrical Safety Program to Ludlow Boys and Girls Club

Ludlow, Mass. -- More than 200 children participating in summer camp programs at the Randall Boys and Girls Club in Ludlow this year are learning how to be safe near electricity. Ludlow-based Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) once again sponsored a three-day safety education program, conducted by safety expert Ray Gouley, at the Boys and Girls Club.

Children ages 3 to 14 participated in the program, presented by the R.F. Gouley Company for the past ten years. MMWEC has also presented this electrical safety program in Ludlow public schools and at the Ludlow Senior Center.

Using age-appropriate props, videos and interactive games, Gouley taught the children to "Stop, Think and Stay Away." The program aims to teach kids how to be safe around outlets, cords, electrical appliances, power lines and other everyday electrical hazards. Gouley brought the message home to children by showing them a child's bike tire and a baseball bat that were hit by lightning, as well as a water gun burned by an electrical shock when it was used to spray a power line.

Children learned how to detect a natural gas leak by smelling scratch-and-sniff cards mimicking the rotten-egg scent of a natural gas leak. In addition, they learned what to do in the event of a thunderstorm. The program's finale featured a visit from a bucket truck courtesy of a local municipal utility and line workers who demonstrated how they stay safe around power lines.

The presentations are updated regularly to reflect new electric and natural gas technologies.

Children received educational booklets to take home and share with their parents.

Gouley said children of all ages benefit from the program.

"It's important to teach kids about electrical safety starting at a young age," Gouley said. "Getting them in the habit of taking these precautions when they're young will keep them safe in the long run."

Ronald C. DeCurzio, MMWEC's chief executive officer, said sponsoring this program is part of MMWEC's commitment to being a positive contributor to the local community.

"MMWEC is proud to help bring this important program to Ludlow's youth," he said. "The program is engaging and informative, and leaves a lasting impression on the children every year."

Jennifer Aldworth, president and CEO of the Randall Boys and Girls Club, said a fundamental prerequisite for the fulfillment of the Boys and Girls Club mission is ensuring the safety of the young people it serves.

"We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to call on professionals in our community to assist our organization's ability to protect our members, particularly professionals who, in both a fun and charismatic way, are able to teach all ages of children regarding utility safety," Aldworth said.

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