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MMWEC Helps Ludlow Boys and Girls Club Campers Learn Electrical Safety

Ludlow, MA -- Learning about electrical safety is an important part of the program for children attending summer camp at the Randall Boys and Girls Club in Ludlow, courtesy of the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), which again sponsored a multi-day safety education program, offered by safety expert Ray Gouley.

Several hundred children, from preschool age through middle school age, participated in the program, which has been sponsored by MMWEC for over ten years. MMWEC also sponsors a similar safety program at the Ludlow Senior Center each year.

Gouley uses age- and developmentally-appropriate props and information for each group of children, as he teaches them about the electrical dangers that lurk around them.

The youngest groups are taught the refrain of "Stop, Think and Stay Away" when learning about how to be safe around outlets, cords, electrical appliances and power lines. Additionally, older children are taught why it's never safe to play near power lines and substations, and what to do if they are riding in a car that hits a utility pole and knocks down wires.

The message was made more clear to the children after seeing objects involved in electrical accidents, such as a child's bike tire and a baseball bat hit by lightning, and a water gun destroyed by an electrical shock when its user aimed it at a power line.

Jennifer Aldworth, President/CEO of the Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys and Girls Club, said the props teach the children that electrical safety is a serious matter.

"What was impressive is when he told the kids about true stories and brought the actual items from the accidents," Aldworth said. "One of the kids asked him if the props were 'the real deal,' and you could see how affected they were when he answered yes!"

Other topics included familiar electric safety myths, what to do in a thunderstorm and how to detect a natural gas leak. Scratch-and-sniff cards featuring the standard rotten egg scent of natural gas were used to teach children to get outside immediately if they detect that distinct odor. The engaging program also included games, testing the kids on what they learned.

The program concluded with the arrival of a bucket truck courtesy of a local municipal utility. Gouley, with the help of the local line workers, explained safety equipment and procedures while demonstrating operation of the bucket truck.

Aldworth said the program fits nicely with the club's mission.

"Our relationship with the electrical safety program continues to be a catalyst for our goal of strengthening our organization's ability to protect our members," she said.

MMWEC is proud to sponsor this program every year, said CEO Ronald C. DeCurzio.

"The goal is to help the kids avoid accidents and injury involving electricity and natural gas," DeCurzio said. "If it saves one person from harm, it's well worth the time and effort," he said.