



[Cody Jesberger, an SPU Water Operator, shows Central Heights Middle School students how to use a magnetic locator.]

Students Participate in Local Professional's Water, Electric Presentations

SUN PRAIRIE, (Wis.) - Sun Prairie Central Heights Middle School students recently expanded their knowledge of Sun Prairie Utilities (SPU) and what its water and electric crews do for the city.

Jacob Dowden, an Apprentice Lineworker, and Cody Jesberger, a Water Operator, visited the middle school on separate Fridays to teach the students about their jobs for College and Career Month.

Dowden highlighted the use of Personal Protective Equipment, including insulated rubber gloves for working with energized, high-voltage materials and insulated rubber sleeves to protect from accidental contact when working around energized lines. Additionally, a fiberglass hot stick tool was demonstrated, allowing line workers to operate energized equipment at a greater safety distance.

Interactive activities were set up so students could touch different power line segments and pull a switch stick, which detaches during a power outage and stops the outage from traveling. Hats, gloves, and a utility belt were available so students could try some of the equipment a lineworker usually wears while on the job.

On the water side, Jesberger held the students' attention by utilizing SPU's new truck-mounted tool that helps the crew flush hydrants around the city efficiently. A magnetic locating tool was also demonstrated so students had the opportunity to try and find underground pipes.



Pictures of a water system were shared to teach how water flows through the city before ending up in students' homes. Jesberger explained there are layers of sand/gravel, clay, and bedrock under the grass that water filters through to reach an aquifer. Water is then pulled out of the aquifer and treated, later distributed through underground pipes to residents' homes. After its use, the wastewater goes to the Sun Prairie Wastewater Treatment Facility, which treats and releases it in Koshkonong Creek. The water gets filtered through the ground, and the cycle begins again.

Dowden and Jesberger showed two primary responsibilities Sun Prairie Utilities provides for residents - supplying water and electricity to its customers. The presentations highlighted the importance of lineworkers and water operators - teaching local students how both jobs benefit the City of Sun Prairie.

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Media Contact: Cora Seibt, Communications Coordinator,
(608) 837-5500, cseibt@myspu.org