

Safety talks give children life-saving information

Armed with booklets made for children, a demonstration on how electricity works and years of knowledge, Mike Demeris is prepared to talk about electricity and electrical safety in classrooms across the community.

“Children love it when the sparks fly,” said Demeris, Energy Services Specialist with Ripley Power and

Light Company.

He partners with TVA for the demonstration on electricity. And the sparks do fly when he creates an electric current.

As Demeris explains current, conductors, insulators and power lines, the underlying message is always about safety.

“Electricity can be dangerous,” he said. “Knowing about electrical safety will help keep them and their friends and family safe. My talks teach them basic science and electrical facts so they can better understand why safety rules are important.”

They learn, for example, that electricity always seeks the easiest path to the ground. If a power line is energized and a kite they are flying comes in contact with the power line, it’s possible the electric current will reach the ground through their kite and through them.



Demeris hands out booklets geared to different ages. The colorful booklets include puzzles, games, science experiments and lots of information. Charts explain how electricity is generated. He can explain the cost of operating every piece of equipment and appliance in their homes.

He can also give teachers websites that offer videos and more information.

“We can adapt the talk to any age group,” Demeris said. “I always try to set up something interesting.”



Mike Demeris, Energy Services Specialist at Ripley Power and Light, talks to students at the Lauderdale Middle School Career Day. For more information about electric safety or to schedule a safety talk, contact Demeris at 731.635.2323 or mdemeris@ripleypower.com.