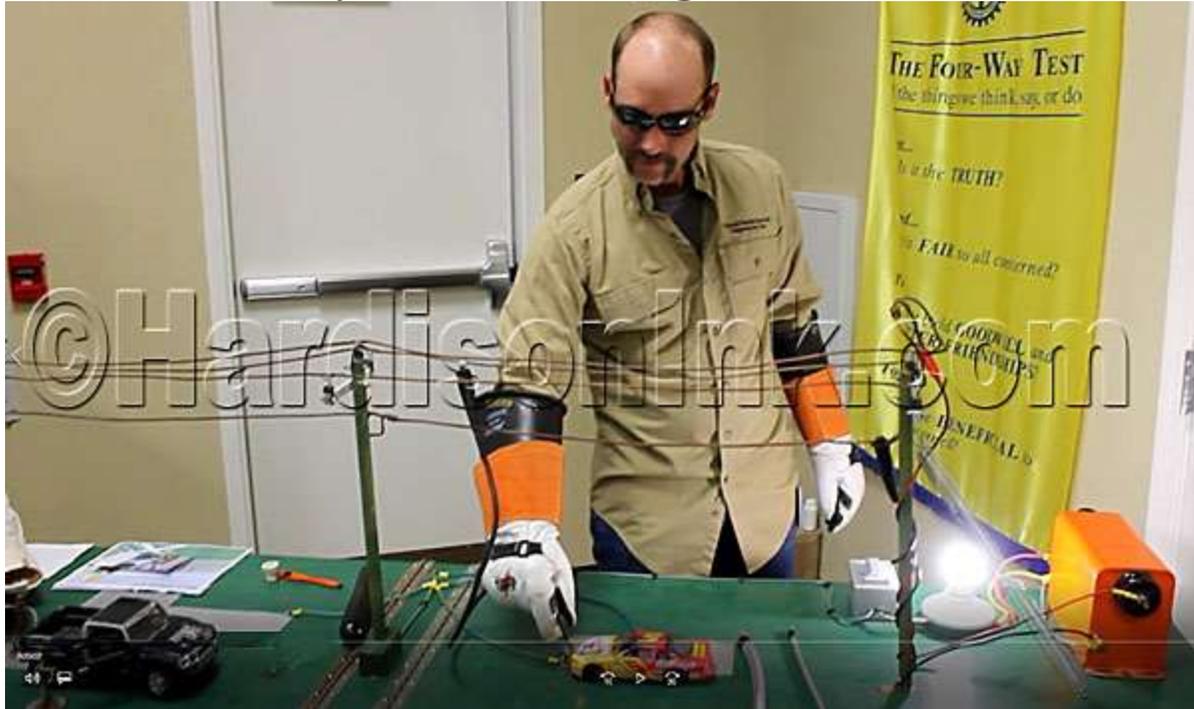


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CFEC shares safety insight at local Rotary Club meeting



Ryan Watson shows a scale model representation of the danger from a power line coming into contact with a vehicle.



Here is the model scene, complete with safety gloves to prevent the demonstrator from shocking himself.

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Story, Photos and Video

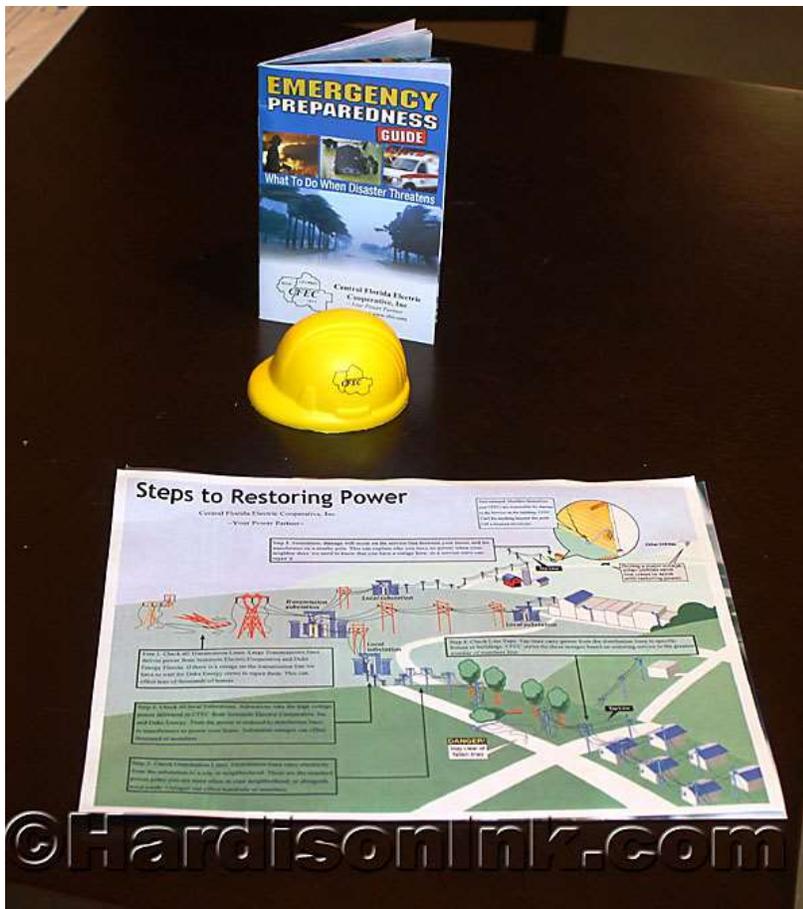
By Jeff M. Hardison © July 21, 2017 at 8:37 p.m.

CHIEFLAND -- Central Florida Electric Cooperative (CFEC) Member Services Representative Ryan Watson on Thursday (July 20) was the guest speaker at the regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Suwannee Valley.

Watson brought a model of a scene to show onlookers the dangers from power lines that may fall during a vehicle accident.

<https://youtu.be/Xyl-qkcr2FE>

In this video, Ryan Watson shows a scale model representation of the danger from a power line coming into contact with a vehicle. Watson's demonstration for Rotarians and guests was more extensive than this brief clip.



Here are some benefits Rotarians and guests went home with after the Thursday afternoon meeting. The toy hard hat is small enough to be gripped by an average adult-size hand.

He also gave each Rotarian and guest a squeezeable "hardhat" for stress relief, hand exercises and as a toy. Each person at the meeting also received as a gift from CFEC an emergency preparedness guide that shows why people should prepare before a disaster, how to prepare for a disaster, what to do during a disaster and how to begin recovery after a disaster.

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The new Rotary Club of Suwannee Valley officers as of the start of the Rotary Year (July 1) pause for moment Thursday (July 20). Seen here are (front row, from left) Secretary Lewrissa



Mainwaring and President Kathryn Lancaster, and (back row, from left) Treasurer Justin Hardy, President-Elect Designate Andy Lott and President-Elect Ben Lott.

The Rotarians and guests who enjoyed the program also went home with a very attractive single sheet of paper with five steps that CFEC linemen and engineers consider as they determine the cause of a power outage. In that Step 1 notes "Check all Transmission Lines. Large Transmission Lines deliver power from Seminole Electric Cooperative and Duke Energy Florida. If there is an outage on the transmission line, we have to wait for Duke Energy crews to repair them. This can affect tens of thousands of homes."

In steps 2 through 5, the CFEC crews check local substations, distribution lines, line taps and even the service line between a residence and the transformer that is serving it. There is a power damage point, however, where CFEC stops. When there is damage inside a residence or business, then the property owner needs to call a licensed electrician for assistance.

Rotary members and guests on Thursday also went home with the July issue of the Co-Op Connection, a monthly newsletter with information from CFEC to its members. Among the many things in this issue are information about preparation before a storm, what to do during a storm and safety tips for after the storm.

One key lesson from the day is to consider any downed line as being active and potentially a killer. Another vital message is that water conducts electricity and a downed wire into a big puddle can carry the current to a person who steps into that puddle.

On a happy note in that issue, nine graduating seniors from the Tri-County Area (and Newberry) were highlighted. They are Haylee Jones and Laura Beth Cooper, both of Dixie County High School; Jesse Crawford of Cedar Key School; Isaiah Polk of Trenton High School; Dylan Couch of Newberry High School; Ana Valdez of Bell High School; Jessica Carbonaro of Bronson Middle High School; Theresa Weatherly of Williston High School; and Emily Hallman of Chiefland High School. These graduates were awarded scholarships from CFEC.