

Remember and prepare

Be ready for strong winds in March

After a long winter, we all hope for green trees, spring blooms and a respite from the cold. But while this month gives us hope for warmer days, March always finds ways to remind us that we're not in charge.

We don't have to look back very far for examples of dangerous spring weather. In March 2023, Kentucky saw one of the worst windstorms in our state's history. Extreme gusts up to 75 miles per hour buffeted the state, toppling at least 1,000 utility poles and impacting more than 300,000 cooperative consumer-members across Kentucky.

Fleming-Mason Energy worked alongside each of Kentucky's 24 distribution cooperatives to restore power. We didn't work alone—71 co-ops from 12 states sent crews providing mutual aid. And while we look back with pride on Fleming-Mason Energy's relentless restoration efforts, the March 2023 windstorm is also a reminder to each of us that when it comes to bad weather, the question is never "if," but "when."

As we look forward to spring, take a moment to be prepared for

whatever March might throw our way. The National Weather Service offers these tips to stay safe during high winds.

Before a storm:

- Be sure your property is secure. Remove any dead trees or overhanging branches near structures and secure loose roofing materials.
- Bring in unsecured objects from patios and balconies and secure outdoor objects such as lawn furniture or garbage cans that could blow away and cause damage or injury.

During a storm:

- The safest place to be is inside. Postpone outdoor activities if a wind advisory or high wind warning has been issued.
- If you are caught outside during high winds, take cover next to a building or under a shelter and stand clear of dangerous areas like roadways or train tracks.
- If you are driving, keep both hands on the wheel and slow down. Watch for objects



blowing across the roadway and keep a safe distance from cars in adjacent lanes.

Finally, in the event of an outage, don't assume someone else has called it in. Let us know right away by calling our dispatch center toll free at (800) 464-3144 or locally at (606) 845-2661. While we all hope for mild weather this month, all of us at Fleming-Mason Energy are standing by, ready to work around the clock for our community.

At your service, 24/7

Should you experience an electric outage, cooperative employees are standing by to respond 24/7. To report an outage, call 1-800-464-3144.



Brandon Hunt
PRESIDENT & CEO

Contact us:
In Fleming County:
(606) 845-2661

Other Counties:
(800) 464-3144

Hours:
7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

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Follow us on:



Steer clear!

Spring storms can bring down power lines

When spring is in the air, so is storm season. Extreme, unpredictable weather can also cause power outages and downed power lines.

Fleming-Mason Energy has an active vegetation management program aimed at minimizing the number of outages caused by trees or limbs interfering with power lines. Despite our best efforts, storm winds sometimes cause vegetation to fall and knock down power lines.

If you see a downed power line:

Stay away. Always assume a downed power line is live and life-threatening. Keep a distance of at least 35 feet, as the ground around downed power lines may be energized. Keep children and pets away, too.

Report it. Immediately report a downed line to Fleming-Mason Energy by calling (800) 464-3144. If the line is in a high traffic area, also call 911 for assistance.

Don't touch. Do not attempt to remove a person or animal caught in power lines. Likewise, never attempt to move a downed power line

or anything else in contact with it using an object such as a broom or stick. Non-conductive materials like wood or cloth can conduct electricity if slightly wet. Wait for emergency personnel to arrive.

Watch for water. Don't step in water near downed lines.

Stay in the car. Never drive over a downed line or under a low-hanging line. If your vehicle comes in contact with a downed power line while you're in the vehicle, stay inside the car. Call 911 or honk your horn to get help, but tell those rendering aid to stay away from the vehicle.

If you must exit the vehicle for life-threatening reasons, jump out and away from it, making sure to land with your feet together and touching. Then, shuffle away with your feet touching until you reach a safe distance. Never attempt to re-enter a vehicle that is in contact with a power line.

Fleming-Mason Energy stresses the importance of staying safe around downed lines. It could save a life.



TIM WEBB

Meet our maintenance crew

This month we continue to highlight some of the folks who help keep the lights on. Our maintenance crew knows the lines across our eight-county service territory well. They respond to calls daily to help maintain and provide electricity to your homes.

Pictured, from left, are Maintenance Crew Leader Joey Porter; Lineman Ben Bush; Lineman Bradley Edmond; Lineman Michael Fultz; Lineman Kent Stanfield; Lineman Justin Dailey; Maintenance Crew Leader Jamie Hawkins; and Maintenance Crew Leader Rob Skaggs. Photo: Lori Ulrich



Annual Meeting Scholarship Essay deadline April 1, 2024

Fleming-Mason Energy is proud to sponsor its 2024 Annual Meeting Scholarship Essay Contest. This program was designed to enhance the education and resulting careers of deserving students by offering 10 scholarships of \$1,000 each. Some of the participation requirements are:

- Candidates must be from the Fleming-Mason Energy service area and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must be a resident of the said area AND a member of Fleming-Mason Energy. Applicant's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must have a residential or business account with Fleming-Mason Energy and the account must be registered in one or both names.
- The candidate must be a graduating high school senior in good standing.
- The applicant must be enrolled or planning to enroll in an educational or training institution.
- Candidates must agree to appear in person at the Fleming-Mason Energy Annual Meeting on June 27, 2024. All applications must be received and/or postmarked on or before April 1, 2024.

You can obtain a complete list of qualifications and applications from your high school guidance counselor, by calling Fleming-Mason Energy at (800) 464-3144, or visiting www.fme.coop and clicking on Youth Activities.

Spring clean your way to energy efficiency

With spring arriving this month, it's time to shake off the winter dust and get your home ready for a fresh start. Don't overlook these areas where cleanliness can also improve energy efficiency.

- **Air ducts and vents.** Clearing out accumulated dust and dirt is both good for your lungs and your cooling system. You'll save energy and may even increase the system's lifespan.
- **Windows and screens.** Clean windows and screens allow more daylighting in the home and reduce the need for using lighting lamps and fixtures. In addition to boosting energy efficiency, natural light may also boost overall health and productivity.
- **Air filters.** A dirty filter reduces air flow, which then requires more force to move air through the blower, requiring the furnace to run longer and harder, using more power in the process. Replacing or

washing dirty air filters can lower your energy consumption by up to 15%.

- **Refrigerator.** Your refrigerator uses up to 14% of your home's electricity, so increasing its efficiency can make a notable difference in your electric bill. Start by cleaning the seals around the door to keep cold air from escaping. Next, remove old condiments and forgotten food. Keeping your fridge two-thirds full is ideal for improved circulation and energy efficiency. Last, vacuum away the accumulated dust bunnies from fridge coils. Filthy coils force the refrigerator to work harder, driving up your energy bill.
- **Sliding door track.** Dirt and grit in the track can ruin the door's seal and create gaps where conditioned air can escape.
- **Electronics and lightbulbs.** Dust keeps electronics and mo-

Spring into savings

Learn new ways to save even more electricity by completing Fleming-Mason Energy's Virtual Energy Assessment at www.fme.coop/virtual-energy-assessment. The online energy analysis will show you how energy is being used in your home and give you recommendations to lower energy consumption. In addition, find a library of simple, DIY energy-saving projects at TogetherWeSaveKY.com.

tors from running efficiently. Dust off your computer, office equipment, electronics and even lightbulbs.

With minimal elbow grease, you can start the season with some energy-saving habits. You'll have a cleaner house and lower electric bill.

People's Self-Help

People's Self-Help Housing located in Vanceburg is a nonprofit organization addressing the needs of low and moderate-income residents. Fleming-Mason Energy has partnered with People's Self-Help Housing on several projects over the years including a development near Tollesboro. Recently, Fleming-Mason Energy President and CEO Brandon Hunt delivered LED lightbulbs to the organization to be used in current and future housing.

Pictured, from left, are Tara Roberts, Justin Hensley, Anne Price and her granddaughter, Willow, and Brandon Hunt. Photo: Lori Ulrich

