

Counting our blessings

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 14

Have you ever taken something—or someone—for granted? I know I have. It's human nature not to notice what we have until we feel the sudden inconvenience of doing without. This is why so many of us were told, growing up, to "count our blessings."

We try to count our blessings daily at Fleming-Mason Energy, and this month, we want to call out one dedicated group of people in particular—our lineworkers. On April 14, electric cooperatives across the nation recognize Lineworker Appreciation Day, highlighting the men and women who help keep the lights on in homes across America.

Think back over the last 12 months. We've seen flooding, tornadoes, ice and snow. No matter the emergency, we rely on our dedicated lineworkers to brave the elements, enduring grueling hours and difficult conditions to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

Because of the challenging weather and terrain lineworkers often face, it's easy to focus on the physical demands of the job. For all the physical strength required, however, lineworkers' mental strength and

focus are equally crucial. Working with dangerous high-voltage lines requires extraordinary attention to detail and safety every day.

That's why Fleming-Mason Energy insists on thorough and constant safety training, provided in conjunction with Kentucky Electric Cooperatives, and a careful adherence to professional standards.

Before our lineworkers begin any job assignment, we first assess the staffing and equipment needs. A mandatory job briefing discusses the objective, location of the worksite, potential hazards, nearest emergency help and coordination of other entities as required.

These practices reflect the professionalism of our line crews. On April 14, please join me in



expressing gratitude to these dedicated members of our community, and to the retired lineworkers who helped build the safe and reliable electrical system we enjoy today.

Use #ThankaLineworker in your social media posts to show support for our Fleming-Mason Energy lineworkers who help power our homes and businesses every day.

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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As the fan turns

Control cooling costs with a counter move

Keeping home cooling bills in check this summer may be as simple as looking up—at your ceiling fan. More than a decorative fixture, this appliance can put a whole new spin on energy savings.

Counterclockwise for summer

In the summer, set your ceiling fan to run in a counterclockwise direction when you're looking up at it. This causes a downdraft, which creates air circulation that makes your skin feel cooler, even when the room temperature remains the same.

Nearly all ceiling fans have a switch located on the side of the fan base that lets you manually change the direction of the fan blades. You can also use the button control on a fan remote or use voice commands with a smart fan.

Save energy

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, running a ceiling fan

allows you to raise the temperature on your thermostat 4 degrees with no reduction in comfort. Each degree the thermostat is raised can translate to about 3-5% reduction in a home's energy consumption.

Though they use only a small fraction of the energy required for air conditioner operation, ceiling fans only work in occupied spaces. To avoid wasting energy, turn off a fan when leaving a room.

Location matters

To optimize energy savings, install ceiling fans in frequently used areas of your home, such as the family room, bedrooms and the dining room. Place fans 7 to 9 feet above the floor and 10 to 12 inches from the ceiling for optimal performance. Locate them as close to the center of the room as possible.

When you spin it the right way, changing your ceiling fan direction for summer is a simple way to save.



PHOTOMAVENSTOCK/SHUTTERSTOCK

Jamie Hawkins retires

Fleming-Mason Energy congratulates Jamie Hawkins on his retirement from the co-op. Jamie began his career at Fleming-Mason in our operations department in 1988. He retires as the maintenance crew leader.

In retirement, Jamie has agreed to work with a local lineman program, teaching the next generation. And there is no doubt they are lucky to have him. He will also carve out time to hunt and spend time with family.

Fleming-Mason Energy would like to thank Jamie for his years of service to the co-op and wish him a happy and healthy retirement. We are going to miss you!



TIM WEBB

GROUND-MOUNTED UTILITY BOXES

are not playgrounds

Ground-mounted transformers are necessary infrastructure for buried power lines and shouldn't be played on or tampered with.

DO NOT LET CHILDREN PLAY ON OR NEAR PAD-MOUNTED TRANSFORMERS.

- **Never stick anything through cracks into the transformer box.**
- **Show kids the warning sticker on the box and teach them what it means.** This way, they will know the importance of the sticker when they see it.
- If you see a transformer that is unlocked or in need of repair, **contact your electric co-op immediately.** Often, contact information will be on the transformer box itself.

BOONE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

STAY IN THE KNOW

Stay connected by keeping your contact information up to date. Current contact information benefits you in multiple ways.

- ✓ Faster outage reporting and response
- ✓ Timely alerts about planned outages and other important updates
- ✓ Smoother customer service interactions
- ✓ Improved access to member benefits and programs

Ensure your phone number, email address and mailing address are up to date so you can enjoy the benefits of staying connected.

NRECA

Safely get through a power outage

Electrical outages sometimes happen because of a spring storm.

While high winds and rain may leave you without power, it doesn't mean you're powerless. Dustin Skaggs, Fleming-Mason Energy's safety director, suggests taking these action steps to protect yourself and your property until the lights come on again.

DON'T:

- Approach, touch or attempt to move downed power lines or items that have fallen on them. Report all downed lines immediately by calling us.
- Step into a flooded area. Be aware that submerged outlets or electrical cords may energize the water, which can result in serious injury or death.
- Use electrical appliances that have been wet. Water can damage the motors in electrical appliances.
- Leave candles unattended. Keep them away from furniture, draperies and other flammable materials.

- Burn charcoal or run any gasoline-powered equipment in an enclosed space. These fuels produce carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless, poisonous gas.

DO:

- Turn off cooling/heating systems and unplug sensitive electronic appliances such as TVs and computers to avoid damage from surges.
- Strictly follow manufacturer's guidelines for portable generator use. Improperly operated or installed generators can injure or kill a utility worker who is working to restore your power.
- Stay clear of areas where Fleming-Mason Energy crews are working. They can restore power faster if they are not interrupted. Before restoring power, lineworkers must inspect the lines to isolate damage, so don't be alarmed if they pass your home more than one time.

To report an outage, call our outage hotline at (800) 464-3144.



SCOTT ALAN RITCHIE/SHUTTERSTOCK