

Make safety a priority at work and at home

Safety culture is nothing new for Fleming-Mason Energy.

The worldwide emphasis on basic safety practices prompted by the coronavirus pandemic forced many people to change their routines and think differently about day-to-day schedules.

At Fleming-Mason Energy, though pandemic restrictions were new for us, the focus on safety was a familiar and perfect fit for our safety culture.

Each day, our employees have both regular tasks and unique challenges depending on many factors.

For instance, before Fleming-Mason Energy line technicians begin any job assigned on a given day, they

first assess the staffing and equipment needs. The job briefing discusses the objective, location of the worksite, potential hazards, nearest emergency help and if anyone besides the co-op needs to be involved.

Everything about this process begins with making safety the priority and not taking anything for granted. It's a lesson we encourage Fleming-Mason Energy employees to take home with them and one we encourage you to share with your family. Don't let complacency or routine replace the care and attention your life deserves. Each month, *Kentucky Living's* Safety Moment column (page 13) shares some useful advice you can apply in your own home.

If you have ever pulled into your

driveway and can't remember your drive to get there, you know it can happen. "Auto-pilot" mode can lead us to stop paying attention when we are completing the most ordinary tasks, like driving, cutting food, doing yard or farm work or riding a bike.

Fleming-Mason Energy is part of an effort with other electric cooperatives in Kentucky and across the country aimed at improving specific safety metrics with an intense focus on preventing serious accidents involving human contact with an energized power line or equipment.

We will learn many lessons from 2020, but if there is anything good that can come out of the pandemic, it is that we can all be more intentional about safety and not take any of the small and ordinary parts of our lives for granted.

At your service, 24/7

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



Joni Hazelrigg
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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Member Appreciation Day is a success

Fleming-Mason Energy held its Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day on Thursday, June 9. This year was decidedly different from years past. Registration and bucket pick up was by drive-thru and the business meeting was conducted “drive-in” style. Members were asked to remain in their vehicles due to state guidelines for social distancing.

The day was the warmest to date, at 95 degrees, but that did not dampen our members’ enthusiasm. One member said she had been a member for 38 years and this was her very first visit to an annual meeting. Those who registered were automatically entered in the drawing held that evening for cash prizes. Eighteen lucky members won a cash prize in the drawing.

The bucket of goodies included a wood yard/walking stick combo, light-bulbs, keychain door opener and other items. The crowd was one of the largest in recent years, with over 1,000 members registering throughout the day.

Thank you again to everyone who came out. We look forward to seeing you next year!

Photos: Tim Webb





Safety Matters

Make safety your top priority when using power generation equipment

After a heavy storm, a power generator can provide much needed electricity when there is a major outage, but it's important to protect your safety and the safety of others by installing and using the equipment correctly.

Without proper precautions, people using power generation equipment can endanger themselves, their family and the lives of linemen or other utility workers who are working nearby.

Here's what you need to know:

- Before installing a power generator, make sure to contact your co-op to see what specifications are required. You may need an outside disconnect switch, Underwriters Laboratory (UL)-rated equipment or a special meter.

- If you have a fixed, standby power generator, a solar panel or windmill, make sure a certified electrician installs a proper disconnect switch. If a storm causes an outage, a properly installed generator will automatically disconnect from the grid. Without disconnecting, back-feeding voltage can endanger the life of a lineman who may be working nearby.

- If you have a portable generator that you only use after a storm,



always flip the main disconnect on your circuit box while using it to prevent back-feeding on the line running to your home or business.

- Beware the danger of carbon monoxide (CO), an odorless, invisible gas that can kill in a matter of minutes. That's why you should never use a portable generator in a closed garage, crawl space or inside a home. Install a CO detector to be safe, and always use portable generators in open, outdoor spaces.

- Never pour gasoline into a hot portable generator. To prevent a fire,

always shut down the generator and let it cool at least 15 minutes before refueling.

- To prevent electric shock, place the generator on a level, dry surface during wet weather. Only touch the machine with dry hands.

- Never connect directly to your home's electrical system by plugging the portable generator into a wall outlet. Doing this can also cause back-feeding.

Fleming-Mason Energy wants you to be safe with power generating equipment.