

Sharpen your pencils

With all due respect to the TV commercials that describe the Back to School shopping season as “the most wonderful time of the year,” parents know it can be a frustrating experience to wander the aisles and check off all the items on school supply lists.

From No. 2 pencils and washable markers to three-ring binders in four colors and calculators, it can seem like a scavenger hunt.

Yet, as we hustle our children out the door for the first day of the 2018-19 school year, we recognize how important it is that we’ve equipped them with what they need to be successful.

You might be asking what this has to do with Fleming-Mason Energy.

When you look at your electric bill, it’s important for you to know that not only does it reflect the amount of energy you used in the previous billing cycle, it also accounts for the resources Fleming-Mason Energy needs to successfully provide you safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

The big items on our supply list are obvious to see: poles, wire, transformers, meters and other equipment needed to connect the power grid to you.

Our lineworkers need adequate tools and personal protective equipment to both keep them safe and to be effective

in maintaining and restoring power. Fleming-Mason Energy works hard to ensure that rights-of-way are regularly cleared of trees and brush to help reduce potential outages and hazards. We employ member services professionals to help you understand and manage your energy usage, and we invest in economic development initiatives to help our community prosper.

Recognizing the importance of communicating with you and supporting our communities, Fleming-Mason Energy partners with our statewide association to bring you *Kentucky Living* magazine. We also pool our resources with other electric co-ops to advocate for Kentucky’s co-op program and protect it from threats.

The beginning of the school year also reminds me of the importance of continuing education and training for the Fleming-Mason Energy staff and board of directors. Like the hard work that teachers do after the bell has rung, many of



Fleming-Mason Energy’s efforts are also behind the scenes, such as the systems we deploy to detect problems down the line, technological upgrades and cybersecurity.

The co-op supply list and your school supplies list might look different, but they actually have a lot in common—our community and our families.

Here’s to a safe and successful school year.

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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Escape plan can save family during fire

Installing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on every floor of your home—and replacing their batteries twice a year—is an important first step to keeping your family safe in the rare case of an electrical fire.

But when that unexpected alarm sounds, your children can panic.

Before an emergency strikes, prepare your kids—and yourself—to respond calmly and sensibly. The best way to do that is to plan for what everyone should do and where to go in case of a fire or gas leak.

Here's how to get started:

- Draw a map of the house's floor plan and outline the best escape route. Teach your children what to do if a doorway is blocked by fire. Create an alternate route, especially from the child's room or from areas of the house without easy access to the outdoors.
- Agree on a meeting place outside of the house so the family will immediately know when everyone is safe.
- Kids can memorize the familiar fire-safety drill: "Stop, drop and roll," but words alone won't keep them safe. Have children act out the moves. Then make a practice run through your escape routes and demonstrate to children how they should crawl and stay low to the ground to prevent smoke inhalation.
- If you have a fire extinguisher in the house, show children how to use it. Still, remind them that their safest action is to escape as quickly as possible.
- Keep a cell phone in a visible and easily accessible place in case of emergencies. That way, you can get out of the house and then call 911.
- Don't waste time grabbing documents or keepsakes. Keep important or irreplaceable items like birth certificates and photo negatives in a fire-proof box or a safe deposit box at the bank.





Local students represent Fleming-Mason Energy in Washington, D.C.

When you hear about Fleming-Mason Energy investing in the communities we serve, it's not just in electrical infrastructure, economic development or the local events we support. Our commitment to community is all about our member-owners. And we are proud to tell you this month about the young people we sponsored on the 2018 Washington Youth Tour.

In June, four local high school seniors joined 86 other Kentucky electric co-op students for the weeklong program where they learned about the political process, interacted with elected officials and gained an up-close understanding of American history.

The students joined more than 1,800 of rural America's best and brightest high-schoolers representing electric cooperatives across America. Now in its 53rd year, the youth tour educates the delegates about the issues facing co-ops, encouraging them to come home to Kentucky and help lead the co-ops in the future.

"I am very grateful for this amazing experience, for it was life changing,"

says Evangelina Clark of Lewis County High School.

Among Kentucky's youth tour alumni are business leaders, elected officials, journalists, and many engaged co-op consumer-members and citizens.

The busy itinerary for the delegation included visits to national monuments, Smithsonian museums, the National Archives, the National Cathedral and a concert by the U.S. Navy Band. While at Arlington National Cemetery, the Kentucky students laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

"I've always wanted to go to Washington, D.C., but didn't really think it was ever possible," Clark adds. "All of the sightseeing and learning about the history was more than I could of have ever imagined."

Another Washington Youth Tour highlight is the opportunity for Fleming-Mason Energy students to interact with Kentucky's congressional delegation, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senator Rand Paul and Congressmen Brett Guthrie, Andy Barr, Thomas

Massie and James Comer. In a rare opportunity, U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao visited privately with Kentucky's students at her offices.

"I can't thank Fleming-Mason Energy and KAEC enough for such a great opportunity to experience our nation's capital city," Clark says.

The tour was led by Mary Beth Dennis of the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives and 15 chaperones from Kentucky co-ops. KAEC has been coordinating the tour for Kentucky co-ops since 1972, when 18 students and four chaperones made the trip.

Fleming-Mason Energy also sponsored Lewis County High School seniors Maddy Flannigan, Hannah Fyffe and Gabby Thayer on the youth tour.

"It is an investment in our co-op youth and the future of the co-ops themselves," says Chris Perry, KAEC president/CEO. "We are so proud of these students. They impress us with their passion for their communities and our nation, and they give us hope for the future."

Be safe when using kitchen appliances

People use kitchen appliances powered by electricity daily. That's why it's so important to think safety when using the toaster, microwave, stove, refrigerator and other appliances. Here are tips to follow:

Toaster: Did you know that 300 people in the United States die each year due to toaster-related deaths? These deaths happen primarily from electric shock due to sticking a metal eating utensil into the slots to remove toast. To eliminate the chance of electric shock, always unplug the toaster before removing the jammed toast.

Stove/Oven: Did you know that 58 percent of house fires start in the kitchen? If a fire starts in the oven, turn the power off, leave the door shut and call 911. Keep an ABC-rated fire extinguisher handy. When cooking, it is best to stay in the kitchen, being attentive to what you are preparing.



Garbage Disposal: Did you know that electric shock is a danger when using a garbage disposal? Over hundreds of uses, the vibration that occurs when operating the disposal could damage the electric connections and increase the chance of shock. When retrieving an item from the disposal, use rubber or wooden grips. Remember, it is not safe to use

your hand or a metal object such as an eating utensil. As a safety measure, disconnect the disposal from its power source before retrieving an object.

With all kitchen electric appliances, always unplug them from the source of power before cleaning or servicing.

Fleming-Mason Energy wants you to be safe in the kitchen.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY 101 BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

- Don't play near or around power lines or poles at school.
- Stay clear of pad-mount transformers (those big green boxes) or other electrical equipment.
- Don't place objects, such as pens or pencils, in electrical outlets.

HIGH SCHOOL:

- If you drive to and from school, obey all traffic laws and practice safety when driving in areas where utility crews are working.
- If you're in an accident involving a downed power line, assume the line is energized. Remain in the car and call 911.

COLLEGE:

- Don't overload electrical outlets.
- Keep all electrical appliances and cords away from bedding, curtains and other flammable materials.
- Only use extension cords temporarily.

