

Properly install and use generators, solar panels and windmills

Using power generators at your home or business can provide vital electricity, especially when bad weather causes power outages. But it's essential to install and use the equipment safely to prevent serious injuries or even death.

Without proper precaution, people using power generation equipment can cause a tragic injury to themselves and their family. They can also put the life of a lineworker or other utility worker in danger. That's why it's vitally important to have the right equipment and to follow correct safety procedures.

Here's what you need to know:

- Make sure to contact Fleming-Mason Energy 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, make sure you 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. That could cause 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, while being careful only to 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.

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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POINTERS AND PROSE

Nothing says love like pitching in around the house

A new Gallup Poll says women still take most of the responsibility for household chores, especially cleaning, cooking, laundry and grocery shopping.

This Mother's Day, get the family together and give mom the day off while the rest of you dust, vacuum, scrub and straighten up the house.

Double the benefit of a clean house by focusing on a few chores that can also improve the home's energy efficiency. For example:

- Wash the windows, inside and out. Clean windows let in unfiltered sunlight, which can warm a room on a cool day and let enough light in that mom might be able to turn off a few lamps.
- Change the air-conditioning filter. It's almost A/C season. Mom's unit will work more efficiently if it doesn't have to fight

with last year's clogged filter as it tries to circulate cool air.

- Snake the clothes dryer vent. A clean passageway for exhaust not only helps the appliance operate more efficiently, it lowers its risk for catching on fire.

- Clean out the refrigerator. Wipe up spills and trash expired food. Then organize the remaining items so they're easy to find. That will cut down on the time mom has to keep the refrigerator door open each time she needs to find something.

- Clean the appliances that are designed for cleaning. Dishwashers and washing machines can harbor bacteria and germs, especially if mom doesn't use bleach. Simply add a cup of bleach to an empty washer and run it with hot water. And take a bleach-soaked rag to the interior of the dishwasher to stave off mold and fungi.

Working to boost the economy

Fleming-Mason Energy and national leaders discuss ways to attract local jobs and investments

Fleming-Mason Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives recently brought together over 200 national, state and local economic development leaders to Frankfort to discuss ways to increase business development in communities across Kentucky.

"We wanted to get our local officials together with these internationally known leaders to think about new ways to bring jobs to our communities," says Lori Ulrich, marketing and public relations manager for Fleming-Mason Energy. "Growth can dramatically improve quality of life, and that's what our co-op is all about."

Nationally acclaimed guest speakers included Didi Caldwell and Lorie Vincent, along with Jim Rasberry and Josh Nowell, who star on the hit HGTV show *Home Town*.

Caldwell, who founded Global Location Strategies, says rural Kentucky communities can take advantage of changes in technology, demographics and policy. Over the last two decades, Caldwell has led site selection projects in four countries.

Lorie Vincent, author of *Stand up Rural America—Get Yourself a Seat at the Big Table*, inspired the guests with stories of how economic development leaders can meet the unique needs of rural Kentucky. She talked about the importance of leadership, team building and community engagement.

The HGTV team shared their passion and entertaining stories of the

revitalization of their rural hometown of Laurel, Mississippi.

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are looking to build on their success in economic development in recent years. By working with state and local officials over the past five years, businesses have announced:

- 11,500 new jobs in areas served by Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives
- New facilities worth \$5.3 billion for new and expanding businesses.

The cooperatives also unveiled their updated, award-winning mobile app called PowerMap, and the crowd applauded the unveiling of the co-ops' updated economic development website—www.DataIsPower.org—at the meeting.

The Frankfort summit was coordinated by Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, which includes Fleming-Mason Energy. The co-op is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative serving more than 24,000 homes and businesses in 8 counties.



Nationally acclaimed guest speakers at the Frankfort economic development meeting included, from left, Jim Rasberry, Lorie Vincent, Josh Nowell and Didi Caldwell. Photo: Tim Webb

Fleming-Mason Energy's

Storm Restoration Process

REPORT A POWER OUTAGE
24 HOURS A DAY

 (800) 464-3144

DO'S & DON'TS



DO report an outage only once. Some members report an outage at their location then leave. If you leave and report the same outage from a second location, it's possible we've already restored your power, causing us to send a truck/crew out again unnecessarily.



DO be patient if you try to reach us by phone and cannot get through.



DON'T try to cut trees or limbs off of a fallen power line. If you see a downed line, stay away from it.



DO report your outage again if your neighbor's power has been restored and yours is still off. This may mean there is a separate issue that needs to be addressed.



DON'T report power outages to Facebook. It is not tied to our outage reporting system.

HAPPYART

- Check our website www.fme.coop for current outage information.
- Meters will self-report an outage—we may know your electric is off when you are not there.

Washington Youth Tour semi-finalists selected

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as semi-finalists for the 2020 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. From this group, two finalists are selected to travel with other Kentucky co-op sponsored youth and chaperones to see our nation's capital. This year's trip, originally scheduled for June, has been canceled amid coronavirus concerns.

Applications are open to students whose parents or guardians have a residential or business account with Fleming-Mason. Students then submit an essay which is then reviewed by an independent panel of

judges not employed by Fleming-Mason Energy. We are proud to announce this year's semifinalists.

Lesley Hickerson

Lewis County High School

Dillon Osgood

Mason County High School

Leyten Thayer

Lewis County High School

Jersey Stanfield

Lewis County High School

Peyton Hall

Fleming County High School

Madison Welch

Lewis County High School

