

Working the Santa shift

You may not know it, but we have employees who work Santa's shift each year to make sure your Christmas stays bright.

Although our cooperative office will be closed on Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26, some employees will report for duty—or be on call—to ensure the power flows to keep your home warm, the eggnog stays cold, the Christmas tree lights continue twinkling and your holiday meal can be cooked for the whole family.

One of our system operators will work in Fleming-Mason Energy's control center on Christmas Day. He will monitor our system to look for any problems that might affect your power. Thanks to modern technology, he can often restore service quickly without calling in extra help. He is also prepared to dispatch our skilled technicians to make needed repairs.

These technicians are willing to step away from their own holiday celebrations to make sure you get to enjoy yours, because serving you is the reason we exist.

If ice prevents motorized switches from working, employees will travel to remote areas and open them manually. If any automated systems detect alarms or malfunctioning equipment, employees will drive out to physically check our lines and system equipment. If there is a major outage, even our customer service representatives can be called to work.

Co-op employees will also be working the controls around the clock at the plants that provide power to



TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVES

Fleming-Mason Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

That's why you can count on our team to work like Santa's elves to restore your power as quickly as possible—even on Christmas. This is no festively wrapped gift, but rather our everyday commitment to you. At Fleming-Mason Energy, the best interest of our members always comes first.

Here's hoping you won't need us, but know that those employees working Santa's shift will be ready to spring into action if the power goes out. From all of us here at Fleming-Mason Energy, happy holidays one and all.

At your service, 24/7

Should you experience an electric outage, cooperative employees are standing by to respond 24/7—even during the holidays. 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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Have a safe, happy holiday

Even the happiest of times can turn to tragedy if everyone's not careful. This winter, practice some common-sense electrical safety. You could prevent accidents, fires and injuries—and save the season for everyone who gathers in your home for the holidays. Here are 10 electrical safety tips:

Buy lights designed for outdoor use. The lights you use to safely decorate your indoor tree are not safe to use outside, where it's cold, damp, windy and exposed. Luckily, it's easy to find lights that are designed specifically for the outdoors.

Choose a fire-resistant tree. On an artificial tree, look for a label that guarantees it is "fire retardant" so it will resist burning and will be easy to snuff out if it does catch on fire. If you're a fan of live holiday trees, choose one that is fresh and water it every day.

Keep your tree away from heat. Not only will the heat dry out a live tree's needles, it can catch a real or artificial tree on fire. Keep trees and other combustible decorations at least three feet away from a heat source, like a radiator or portable electric heater.

Be picky about hooks. Never staple, screw, nail or tack your outdoor lights to your roof, gutter, railings or doors, as you could cut right through the wires on the light strands. Instead, buy insulated hooks. You'll greatly reduce the risk of a fire, and they won't damage your roof.

Examine the lights. Whether you just bought a new set or you're reusing last year's indoor or outdoor lights, inspect them to make sure



they all light up and their wires aren't damaged.

Insist on "certified." The UL label on Christmas lights, replacement bulbs and decorations means the products have passed tests that prove they are fire- and shock-resistant.

Use extension cords sparingly. Extension cords extend the reach of your light strands. But if you hide them under a rug, they'll get trampled on—and can overheat and catch that rug on fire.

Follow instructions. Manufacturers of incandescent holiday lights usually recommend that you string no more than three sets together before plugging them in. More than that creates a fire hazard. If you're using energy-efficient LEDs, however, you can safely link up to 25 strands.

Use battery-operated candles. Almost half of decoration-related fires are started by candles with real flames, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Install smoke alarms. A beeping smoke alarm could be your first clue that you need to get everyone out of the house. Change your alarm's batteries before your home fills with company.

Just For Kids

color santa & you could win a \$50 gift card

Fleming-Mason Energy is sponsoring a coloring contest for children ages 5 through 8. The winners, one from each age group, will win a \$50 gift card from Fleming-Mason Energy.



So color the picture and mail to:
Fleming-Mason Energy
ATTN: Lori Ulrich
P.O. Box 328
Flemingsburg, KY 41041

Entries can also be dropped off at
our offices in Flemingsburg.

All entries must be received by
Friday, December 15, 2017,
by 4:30 p.m. So have fun and start
coloring today!

Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: (____) _____
Age _____
Parents: _____
Fleming-Mason Account No: _____

People's Self-Help Housing awarded Sharing Success grant

One of the most unique programs Fleming-Mason Energy participates in is the CoBank Sharing Success Grant Program. The annual Sharing Success grant opportunity, capped at \$5,000, is made possible by Fleming-Mason Energy's governing board of directors, in partnership with CoBank—a national nonprofit cooperative bank owned by the rural American cooperatives it services, including Fleming-Mason Energy.

Each year, CoBank establishes a fund to match charitable contributions made by its cooperative members. The matching grant program is designed to celebrate the vital role that cooperatives play in individual communities across the country. CoBank states that partnering with their customers to support worthy causes they care about is a great way for them to make a positive difference and fulfill its mission of service to rural America.

This year, Fleming-Mason Energy awarded a "Sharing Success" grant to People's Self-Help Housing, Inc., located in Vanceburg. Applicants must be federally recognized as 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. People's Self-Help Housing, Inc. received a \$1,000 "Sharing Success" grant which Fleming-Mason Energy matched. PSHH Executive Director Dave Kreher says the funds will go into a loan fund to help elderly and disabled low-income homeowners cover the cost of minor repairs.

Joni Hazelrigg and Lori Ulrich, both with Fleming-Mason Energy, recently visited People's Self Help Housing Evergreen site near Tollesboro

for a tour. Hazelrigg, CEO, says, "Fleming-Mason Energy appreciates the excellent working relationship we have had with PSHH over the last 35 years. PSHH builds and maintains energy efficient and affordable housing for many of our members, and we trust this contribution will help with future endeavors."



From front left, PSHH employees Joe Clifford, Rickie Buckner and Darrell Buckner. From back left, Dave Kreher, Joni Hazelrigg and Lori Ulrich.

**Fleming-Mason Energy office
will be closed**

Monday, December 25

Tuesday, December 26

Monday, January 1

Happy Holidays!

