

FLEMING-MASON ENERGY

Downed power lines: always a risk

You teach your children not to mix water and electricity in the bathroom, kitchen and laundry room. But when a late summer rain storm knocks power lines down outdoors, do they know to stay far away from them?

Here's what your family needs to know:

- If someone nearby comes into contact with electricity, do not touch that person or anything the person is touching. Instead, call 911. If the source of electricity is an appliance, grab the plug—not the cord—and pull it out of the outlet. If you cannot safely remove the plug, turn off the power at the fuse or circuit breaker.

- If an electric wire falls on your car, do not get out of the car. You are safe inside your vehicle because your tires are conductors of electricity. They can keep you safe in your car because electricity seeks the quickest path to the ground—through the outside of the car, through the tires and into the ground.

- Not all power lines are insulated, so they are never safe to touch. When a wire falls to the ground, it may still be live, even if you don't see sparks. Call 911 and your electric



cooperative if you see a downed wire. Warn others to keep their distance.

- Wood is a poor conductor of electricity, but it is still a conductor, especially when wet. Do not use a wooden ladder near a power line. If a ladder begins to fall into a power line, don't grab it. Let it fall and call your electric cooperative.

- Only pure rubber is an insulator, and most household products aren't pure rubber. Don't try to handle electric emergencies at home, even when you're wearing rubber gloves or shoes.

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



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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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Fleming-Mason Energy employee Duane Flora explains the dangers associated with power lines to camp participants. Photos: Lori Ulrich

Community Passport Day

Fleming-Mason Energy was recently the site of the Community Passport Adventure Day Camp. Campers spent the day learning more about what cooperative work is like. Campers witnessed safety demonstrations, made a solar oven, learned about electric vehicles and built their own lamp. A few campers even checked out the view from

a bucket truck. Thank you to both the Fleming County Chamber of Commerce and Fleming County Cooperative Extension Service for inviting us to participate.

If your group, school or civic organization would be interested in scheduling an electrical safety demonstration, please contact Grover Money at (800) 464-3144.

Fleming-Mason Energy CEO Joni Hazelrigg helps campers assemble their lamps.



Fleming-Mason Energy will be CLOSED on Monday, September 3, in observance of Labor Day.

A small thanks for a big sacrifice

Each day, more memories—the sights and sounds, the horrors and highlights—of World War II disappear with the passing of those who served. According to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs statistics, 362 WWII vets die each day.

Of the 16 million Americans who served in the war, only about 500,000 are living. Around 6,400 of those veterans, most in their late 80s and 90s, call Kentucky home.

Fleming-Mason Energy and Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives sponsor Honor Flight each year to show appreciation for those who served in WWII as well as Korea and Vietnam. It allows us to thank veterans like 97-year-old Frank Zupan, who is among those planning to make this year's one-day trip to Washington, D.C., on Sept. 22.

Frank knew nothing about firearms when he enlisted in 1942 at age 21. A few months later, he was a machine gunner with the U.S. Army's 7th Division, 17th Infantry.

What many would define as courageous, Frank saw as his job. He was the point man who cleared the way for fellow soldiers. He supported advancing troops during critical Pacific Theater battles in the Aleutian Islands, Marshall Islands, Philippines and, finally, Japan.

"Being in the front never did scare me," he says. "I was a very good shot."



Frank Zupan, a 97-year-old veteran from Frenchburg, holds the Purple Heart, Silver Star, Bronze Star and other medals he earned for his service during World War II. Photo: Kevin Osbourn

That fearlessness earned Frank both the Silver Star and Bronze Star medals presented for acts of valor. He is also a Purple Heart recipient.

Frank will join about 60 other former warriors participating in the 2018 Honor Flight. Also in this year's contingent is Flemingsburg veteran Howard Smith, 96. Fleming-Mason Energy is proud to sponsor this Army veteran who served during World War II.

This is the eighth year Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are taking veterans, free of charge, to tour the national monuments that honor them. It is the third flight in partnership with Honor Flight Kentucky.

Please join us at 8 p.m., Sept. 22, at Lexington's Blue Grass Airport to give Frank, Howard and all the veterans an unforgettable welcome home. It's our small way of saying thanks for the big sacrifices made by these vets.

Father and son take Honor Flight together

When he makes the Honor Flight in September, Frenchburg's Frank Zupan will be accompanied by his son, who is also named Frank and is also a veteran. The two visited Washington, D.C., together once before when the younger Frank was honored as the Navy's 1995 Sailor of the Year. "Just to get to go back there with my dad will be an incredible experience," says Frank. A guardian, who is usually a relative or electric co-op employee, accompanies each Honor Flight veteran. It's a day neither vet nor guardian will forget.

Portable generators can help after storms or natural disasters

A 12-year-old boy called 911 to report that his mother and siblings were unconscious. When the Orlando, Florida, police arrived, they found the boy's mom and two sisters had died from carbon monoxide poisoning emitted from a portable generator's engine.

This tragic event happened after Hurricane Irma devastated Florida. The family operated the generator in their garage and was unaware of the odorless, invisible and toxic gas seeping into their home.

Portable generators are helpful in times of disaster. But, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that more than 70 people die each year due to the improper use of this equipment.

While carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the potential hazards, electrical safety is just as important when operating a portable generator.

Always use generators outdoors and never in an enclosed space such



as a garage or crawl space. Place the generator on a level, dry surface under an open-air shelter during wet and rainy weather, being careful to touch the machine with dry hands to prevent electric shock.

Be sure to read the owner's manual for the proper way to operate

and use your generator. Improper use of the generator can put utility workers at risk.

Fleming-Mason Energy hopes you will never need to use a portable generator to power your home. But if you do, always operate the equipment safely.

KEEP BATTERIES

OUT OF REACH



Little kids love to explore and put things in their mouths, but **coin-size lithium batteries** can cause serious injury. Each year in the United States, nearly 3,000 children are treated in emergency rooms for swallowing these tiny batteries.

- Hide loose batteries.
- Place duct tape over controllers to prevent kids from reaching the battery.

