

A Monthly Publication of The FEC Companies

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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Hey! Please go fly a kite...safely

With March comes the wind, making this the perfect time to engage in the ancient hobby of kite flying.

While kite flying can be an excellent outdoor activity, FEC wants to make sure kite flyers stay safe. We all want to have fun kiting, but we must never forget to put safety first.

Kites are controlled more by the wind than the kite's pilot. Therefore, it is very important that kites are never flown near power lines. A sudden gust of wind can take kites in a direction you never anticipated, bringing the kite flier into contact with overhead power lines with potentially disastrous results. 21520

Power lines are not insulated. If a kite becomes entangled in a power line, electricity can travel down the string to the kite flier. Parents should warn their children about the potential dangers of kite flying. Remind them each time they take their kites outdoors.

By following these simple rules, kite flying can be a wonderfully, enjoyable experience.

Safety Rules For Kite Flying

- The best place to fly a kite is out in the open and away from electrical lines.
- If your kite becomes trapped in a power line, the current could travel down the string and give you a shock. 273083
- Wet or damp string can conduct enough electricity to cause fatal injuries.
- Never fly kites in the rain or during a thunderstorm. Ben Franklin was lucky to survive his famous experiment.
- If your kite does get tangled on a power line, never climb a pole or a tower or even a nearby

tree to try to get the kite. Instead drop the string before it becomes entangled in the power line, make sure no one else touches the string and call FEC as soon as possible. 82927

- If your kite gets caught in a tree or other tall place LEAVE IT. Kites are cheap. Climbing tall objects is dangerous.
 - Always use wood or paper in your kite, never metal or wire. Metal objects and wire can cause power outages that could also cost the life of someone who depends upon electricity for their life support equipment.
 - Do not fly kites near busy streets and highways where drivers could become distracted.
 - Stay clear of electric substations. If a kite or a baseball or a model airplane - or any other item - falls inside a substation fence, do not go after it. Instead, call FEC. Their especially trained employees will retrieve whatever it is you lost.
 - Never use fishing line or wire to fly a kite.
 - Know the landscape around you. Don't let yourself fall into a hole or off the edge of a steep hill. 181592
 - Avoid flying kites near airports, ditches, stones, trees, traffic or livestock.
 - Use extreme caution when flying large kites. Consider gloves to avoid rope burn.
 - If the wind is too strong wait to fly your kite another day.
 - Be aware of anyone nearby who could become injured if your kite strikes them or if they become tangled in the string.
- Make the great outdoors the safe outdoors this kite season.
Have fun...safely. 230779

March 31 is the last day discount cards can be used

Thursday, March 31, 2005 will be the last day members will be able to use FEC discount cards at the Fuel Expresso/Dairy Queen stores in Chillicothe.

Please keep an eye out for regular sales coupons in the monthly Rural Missouri magazine for discounted specials at the convenience store complex.

Brush crews readying for warmer temperatures

FEC brush crews and contractors are readying for the upcoming brush cutting season.

The cooperative's tree cutter will be working throughout the Nettleton substation in 2005. The crews operating the tree cutter have averaged cutting 58 miles of brush and trees the last three years.

Spray crews will be working on the Knoxville and Polo substations this year.

New billing cards will be mailed in just a few weeks

FEC members who read their own meters will receive their new packet of billing cards in about three weeks.

If you haven't received your billing cards by Wednesday, March 30, please contact the office in Chillicothe. Just call 646-4281 or 1-800-279-0496. Don't forget to hang on to your meter reading from the March 1 bill so you can transfer the reading to the first card in the packet.

Minor in comparison

There are few foods I do not like to eat. Unfortunately my profile shows this.

Walnuts, cucumbers and raw onions headline the list of foods I usually pass on when they are offered. Someday, when I grow up, I may decide that these, too, are really good. In the meantime, I will continue to avoid them whenever possible.

Life seems to abound with "things" that either do not agree with us, we do not like or changes someone else forces upon us that we can see no real benefit in doing. Over the years, Farmers' Electric Cooperative has seen many changes. Some of these have been well received while others are met with resistance.

As I sit in this chair and try to peer into the crys-

tal ball, there are certain changes that will have to come about. Technology is offering us many new options. These options will provide new opportunities to the members as well as to the employees of your cooperative.

Will they all be accepted and appreciated? Probably not by everyone. But, who am I to talk? After all, in the late 1960's, when I was in college, I made the bold announcement that no one, and I meant no one would pay to watch television. I refused to purchase cable at my home.

Today, we not only have cable available with several packages, we have opportunities to buy a "dish" and purchase a myriad of programming options through that company. I am now paying

by dan bryan, fec ceo



as much for my cable television each month as I paid in rent back when I made my infamous statement. And my package has few if any of the premium programming choices.

Looking into the future, your board of directors and employees of your cooperative will be making a number of choices about technological advancements and opportunities. Some of these will appear major, while others not. Compared to what has happened in the world of home entertainment, I'm sure they will be minor in comparison.

Stay tuned.