



# MYLAR BALLOON HAZARD!

**E**ach year, stray mylar balloons cause power disruptions that impact thousands of homes and businesses. Careless handling of these balloons can cause bodily injury and damage to equipment. Special care should be taken at graduations, picnics, and other outdoor events where balloons are used.



Just one balloon can cause a short circuit, which can trigger an explosion or melt an electrical wire, potentially resulting in costly utility repairs, customer inconvenience, and hazardous conditions.

## To reduce the risk of these incidents, please follow the following safety tips:

- Always attach a weight to metallic balloons
- Never release a metallic balloon outdoors
- Keep metallic balloons away from power lines
- Never use metallic ribbon with balloons
- Always deflate metallic balloons and dispose of them properly when no longer in use
- Never release large/oversized latex balloons or large bunches of latex balloons. They can strike power lines when released or when they fall back to the ground.

Always keep yourself, your equipment and all other items, at least 10 feet away from power lines. If a

balloon or any object becomes entangled in an overhead power line, don't climb the pole or make any other attempt to retrieve the object. Instead, call 1-800-DIAL DWP or your local electric utility if outside the City of Los Angeles.

California law (California Penal Code Section 653.1) restricts the distribution and use of metallic balloons and metallic ribbon. The law also prohibits the release of metallic helium-filled balloons outdoors. Violations are subject to fines or misdemeanor charges.

# Power Line Safety Alert

## How to Work and Play **Safely** Near Your Home

- Make sure that trees where children play don't have wires passing through them.
- Never climb trees that are near or touching electrical wires.
- Metallic balloons and model airplanes can cause dangerous power outages. **KEEP THEM AWAY FROM POWER LINES.**
- It is safest to play and fly kites in an open field – not near overhead lines.
- If you are installing an antenna, make sure there is plenty of space between it and overhead power lines – at least twice the length of the antenna – so if it falls, it will clear the overhead power lines. If possible, hire a professional. Remember to read the instructions before installing an antenna and do it in dry weather, not when it's raining.
- Remember to keep electrical equipment at least ten feet from a pool and wet surfaces.
- Outdoor outlets should be weatherproof and protected by a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI). GFCIs protect you from shock. This protection is especially important outside or in damp locations.
- Contact your local electric utility before pruning, trimming, or cutting down trees that are touching overhead electrical lines.
  - NEVER touch a downed power line, or any person or object in contact with it – always assume it is energized
  - If a power line falls on your car, drive away slowly and carefully. If you cannot move your car, call 911 and wait for help. If you are in immediate danger and you **MUST** leave your car, stand on the door sill and jump away from your car, then move at least twenty feet away by hopping with your feet close together. NEVER touch your car and the ground at the same time.
- Never build a swimming pool or other structure under a power line.
- Always use caution when utilizing aluminum poles and ladders, tree-trimming tools or any other tools that can be extended overhead. Avoid using this type of equipment where power lines are nearby. If these tools must be used, there must be at least 10 feet of clearance from power lines. Under some circumstances, electricity can arc to equipment that's close to a power line – even if it's not touching the line.
- Never climb a power pole or tower, tamper with electrical equipment, or trespass near utility electrical stations.
- Before digging have all underground utilities located and marked. For this service, call the Underground Service Alert (Dig Alert) at (800) 227-2600.
- Pad-mounted transformers are for underground wiring. The transformers are inside sturdy metal cabinets that are locked for safety. Never dig near them or pry them open. If you find one unlocked, call LADWP at 1-800-DIAL DWP.
- Report activities that could damage power poles – such as excavations that might reduce pole stability – to LADWP at 1-800-DIAL DWP. Temporary bracing may be necessary.

**Visit our web site at [www.ladwp.com](http://www.ladwp.com) for more safety information.**



In cooperation with  
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