

# DON'T LET YOUR DECORATIONS RUIN THE PARTY



## Did you know that metallic foil, or Mylar, balloons are a major cause of power outages?

When a metallic balloon or kite touches a power line, it can cause a surge of electricity, leading to a power outage. This also creates a risk of fire and possible injuries.

Not only are power outages disruptive to all of us, this situation is dangerous and can also cause road closures, property damage, and more.



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# CONSIDER AN ALTERNATIVE TO MYLAR BALLOONS WHEN PLANNING YOUR PARTY.

Otherwise, please keep track of those decorations!

## The City of Palo Alto Utilities values your safety. Here are some helpful tips:

- Mylar balloons and kites should always be kept away from overhead power lines and all utility equipment.
- Make sure balloons are securely tied to a heavy weight to prevent them from floating away.
- Do not bundle Mylar balloons together and never release balloons or kites outside.
- Never attempt to retrieve anything that becomes caught in a power line.
- Avoid a power line that has fallen to the ground or is dangling in the air. Always assume downed electric lines are energized and extremely dangerous. Keep far away and immediately alert 911.

## Thank you for your efforts to help keep us all safe.

If a kite or balloon gets caught in a power line, call us immediately at (650) 496-6914. Visit [cityofpaloalto.org/safeutility](http://cityofpaloalto.org/safeutility) for more resources on safety and emergency preparedness.

## In the event of a power outage,

Check [cityofpaloalto.org/outagemap](http://cityofpaloalto.org/outagemap) for immediate updates or call us at (650) 496-6914. Follow us on Twitter @PAUtilities or Facebook @PaloAltoUtilities for important news and information.



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