



# Balloons Cause Power Outages



GOOD MORNING ARIZONA

## MORE MYLAR, MORE PROBLEMS

BALLOONS CAN HIT POWER LINES, CAUSING POWER OUTAGES & FIRES

LIVE az family

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### How do balloons impact power?

When foil balloons and ribbons with metallic paints (sometimes referred to as “Mylar balloons”) come into contact with an overhead power line, they can spark a power outage. The loss of power caused by balloons—hundreds every year—impact families, schools, restaurants, businesses and hospitals. One study found up to 20% of power outages are caused by balloons!

### Where do power outages occur due to balloons?

Anywhere you have power lines and people releasing balloons, communities can experience power outages. According to one employee of a utility company, balloons released on Valentine’s Day, Mother’s Day, Easter, graduations and at weddings result in outages almost without fail.

According to Dominion Power in Virginia, power outages caused by balloons impact tens of thousands of customers. One power outage in Virginia in April 2015 left 14,600 families without power. Southern California Edison reported more than 650 power outages in one year caused by balloons. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power reported more than 510 outages caused by metallic balloons in just one year. According to the Arizona Public Service Company In Arizona, more than 63 outages were caused by foil balloons in 2018. In 2019, they reported 83 outages involving 63,000 customers. According to PEPSCO,

### BALLOONS + POWER LINES = OUTAGES + CUSTOMERS WITHOUT POWER!

14,600 families without power in ONE outage in Virginia

650 power outages in ONE year in southern California

146 power outages in 2018 & 2019 in Arizona

63,000 customers without power in Arizona in ONE year due to balloons

510 power outages in ONE year in Los Angeles

110 power outages in ONE year in DC & Maryland affecting 8,254 customers

101 power outages in 2020 were caused by contact with foil balloons. 56 of these outages occurred in the Washington DC area and affected 1,963 customers, while the other 45 outages occurred in Montgomery & Prince George’s County and impacting 6,291 customers.



# POWERFUL, Uplifting Alternatives to Balloon Release

There are many inspirational, colorful, and litter-free ways to celebrate, to remember, and to honor the people who impact our lives. Due to potential injury, firefighter associations, electrical providers, local governments, public-safety groups, and wildlife conservation organizations have all supported

educational campaigns and laws that would reduce balloon releases.

Power outages from balloons are preventable – have a wonderful event, while NOT releasing balloons!



**Distribute noise makers** to celebrate at parties, at outdoor sporting events, weddings and other joyful events. Raise the level of excitement.

**Hold a beach, park or waterway cleanup** in a place you visited and enjoyed **to remember** a loved-one or **to honor** a person or group that impacted your life. Invite the press to attend to draw attention to the event.

## Expressive ways to come together as a community to say thank you.

**Plant a native tree** in your yard, or with approval in a park or place special to your loved **to remember** them. Add a plaque with a special message.

**Contribute to benches, plaques, bricks,** or another permanent memorial **to remember** loved-ones.

**Use glowsticks, signs, noise makers** **to honor** essential workers and first responders in your community.



**Wave ribbons wands** with your wedding guests in your colors. Add bells for a joyful noise. Easy to make as a delightful pre-wedding activity with your family and friends. Go to [JoyfulSendoff.org](http://JoyfulSendoff.org) for more ideas.

**Hold a community or family candlelight vigil** **to remember** a loved one. It is a beautiful healing event.

**Plant a native tree** **to celebrate** the birth of a child, or sponsor a tree at a restoration planting nearby. Take a picture of the child with the tree every year to show how they grow and reach new heights together.

**Throw colorful beach balls** into the air **to celebrate**, or toss to one another. Add more fun by putting hints on them for others to guess who tossed the ball.

## Joyful, picture-perfect ideas for weddings and other celebratory events.

**Blow and release bubbles** **to celebrate**, **to honor** or **to remember** with people of all ages. As they rise, they lift your prayers, love, and spirits.

**Share yarn or paper pom-poms** with guests **to celebrate**. Cheerfully wish a child or an adult a happy birthday, or a happy retirement. Create pom-poms in your favorite sport team colors. Pom-poms help create colorful and fun pictures.

**Create a colorful wildlife garden** with native plants that will attract butterflies and birds. **To remember** a life, support life.

## Uplifting ideas for memorials for loved ones.

**Let paper airplanes fly** **to celebrate** and **to honor**. Have guests write their well wishes on the airplane wings to save in your party scrap-book.



**Prevent Balloon Litter.org**  
Inspirational, colorful, litter-free ideas to celebrate, to remember and to honor the people who impact our lives.



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