

CALIFORNIA LAW REQUIRES THAT STEPS BE TAKEN TO PROTECT ELECTRICAL POWER LINES FROM DAMAGE BY FOIL BALLOONS AND OTHER METALLIC BALLOON-RELATED ACCESSORIES. THE FOLLOWING STATES THE PENAL CODE THAT DETAILS THE EXACT WORDING OF THE LAW.

CALIFORNIA FOIL BALLOON LAW

PENAL CODE SECTION 653.1

- (a) No person shall sell or distribute any balloon that is constructed of electrically conductive material, and filled with a gas lighter than air without;
 - (1) Affixing an object of sufficient weight to the balloon or its appurtenance to counter the lift capability of the balloon.
 - (2) Affixing a statement on the balloon, or ensuring that a statement is so affixed, that warns the consumer about the risk if the balloon comes in contact with electrical power lines.
 - (3) A printed identification of the manufacturer of the balloon.
- (b) No person shall sell or distribute and balloon filled with a gas lighter than air that is attached to an electrically conductive string, tether, streamer, or other electrically conductive appurtenance.
- (c) No person shall sell or distribute any balloon that is constructed of electrically conductive material and filled with a gas lighter than air and that is attached to another balloon constructed of electrically conductive material and filled with a gas lighter than air.
- (d) No person or group shall release, outdoors, balloons made of electrically conductive material and filled with a gas lighter than air, as part of a public or civic event, promotional activity, or product advertisement.
- (e) Any person who violates subdivision (a), (b), (c) , or (d) shall be guilty of an infraction punishable by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100.00). Any person who violates subdivision (a), (b), (c), or (d) who has been previously convicted twice of violating subdivision (a), (b), (c), or (d) shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.
- (f) This section shall not apply to manned hot air balloons, or to balloons used in governmental or scientific research projects.

In simple layman's terms, this means:

All foil balloons in California must be individually weighted to keep them from flying away.

Foil and Latex balloons mixed in a bouquet must be weighed individually to keep them from flying away.

Do not use metallized string or ribbon when attaching a foil balloon to a weight.