

Power Line Safety

- LAUNCHING
 - Be aware of power line in the vicinity especially lines down wind from your launch location.
 - Confirm how much lift you will need to clear power lines with a good margin of safety.
 - Allow at least 100 feet of horizontal travel from power lines for each knot of wind speed.
 - Avoid making high wind inflations wherever power lines are down wind of the launch site.
- FLYING
 - When flying at low levels have everyone on board watch AND point out power lines that are near to your travel path.
 - Always maintain enough ascent to be able to clear power lines with a safety zone.
 - Always assume that there are power lines in the vicinity of roads and buildings
- LANDING
 - Do not land near power lines
 - Always land down wind of power lines
 - Be aware that power lines are often hidden in trees. Look for power poles and guide wires in addition to power lines
- IN CASE OF POWER LINE CONTACT
 - Pilot
 - Immediately shut off all fuel tanks
 - Remain in the center of your gondola away from all metal
 - Do not attempt to remove the balloon from power lines
 - Call local power company for assistance
 - If you must leave the gondola jump clear without making simultaneous contact with the ground
 - Crew
 - Do not approach the balloon
 - Park chase vehicles at least 100 feet away
 - Look for broken power lines touching the ground and advise the pilot
 - Stay at least 50 feet away from any downed power lines.
 - Call for emergency help
 - Inform pilot that you have requested emergency help
 - If you are completely sure that power lines are not touching the ground or are a sufficient distance from the balloon, approach the balloon to assess injuries and administer first aid as needed
 - Do not help anyone out the basket. Touching anyone in any way could complete the electrical circuit, putting everyone in danger
 - Write down the balloon's location (including the direction from the nearest marked intersection), street address or power pole number closest to the balloon
 - When calling for assistance describe the incident in detail
 - If you leave the site, leave first aid kit, drinking water and fire extinguishers
 - Provide crowd control keeping all spectators at least 50 feet away from balloon and power lines. Do not answer any questions relative to the incident conditions