



## California Balloon Law

**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 any 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.