



Redding Electric Utility

POWERING A STRONG COMMUNITY



P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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This Father's Day, Celebrate Your Dad but Skip the Mylar Balloons

Redding — [Redding Electric Utility](#) (REU) and the [Redding Fire Department](#) (RFD) would like to wish all Fathers a happy day, and asks citizens to consider keeping Mylar balloons out of their Father's Day celebrations.

The helium in Mylar balloons makes them rise, and the metallic content of those balloons can cause power outages if the balloons come into contact with electric lines and transformers. In Redding, Mylar balloons (also known as foil or metallic balloons) have caused nine momentary and six sustained outages over the last five years. According to Redding Fire Chief Gerry Gray, even standard balloons with Mylar strings have caused issues in the past.

Mylar balloons pose challenges to electric utilities around California and the nation. In addition to sparking over 6,500 power outages in California since 2011, Mylar balloons touching a California utility's power lines sparked a 75-acre wildfire in 2015.

"We want Redding residents to celebrate their dads on June 17, but if you must bring Mylar balloons to the party, we ask that they be weighted down or tied securely to tables or chairs," Beans said. "It's getting warmer in Redding and I would hate to have a Mylar-balloon cause a power outage that shuts down customers' air conditioning." Chief Gray added "All it takes is a spark on a hot and windy day to create a devastating wildfire."

For more tips on staying safe around electricity, visit REU's [Electric Safety](#) page.

For more tips on keeping your home and our community safe, visit RFD's [Fire Season Safety Tips](#).

REU is a community-owned electric utility serving about 45,000 customers in Redding, California.

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