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**News Release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Graduates, Don't Let Your Mylar Balloons Ruin the Party**

*ComEd reminds customers to keep foil balloons away from power lines*

**CHICAGO (May 8, 2018)** – As graduation season nears, don't let a Mylar balloon stop your celebration. Loose metallic balloons, also known as Mylar balloons, can lead to power outages when they come into contact with outdoor power lines. From 2013 to 2017, more than 312,000 customer power outages occurred because of foil balloon contact. These balloons also can float for days and end up having a negative impact on the environment.

When a foil balloon contacts a power line or electrical substation equipment, its metallic properties can cause a surge of electricity that can short-circuit equipment and lead to a power outage or fire.

ComEd encourages customers to reduce foil balloon-related power outages and ensure safety by following these tips:

- Keep balloons secured and attached to weights at all times.
- Properly dispose of Mylar balloons by puncturing them to release helium that otherwise could cause balloons to float away.
- Never touch a power line. Do not attempt to retrieve a balloon or toy that is entangled in an overhead power line. For assistance, call ComEd at 1-800-334-7661.
- Always assume power lines are live. Keep yourself and your belongings at least 10 feet away from power lines.

ComEd customers can get more safety tips for the season at [ComEd.com](http://ComEd.com).

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