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PNM offers safety information for the 2025 Balloon Fiesta

(Albuquerque, NM) – Today, in preparation for the [2025 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta](#), PNM hosted a safety demonstration for first responders, Balloon Fiesta safety officials, and local media to discuss what to do if a hot air balloon gets caught in power lines.

Raymond Bair, a member of the Balloon Fiesta Board of Directors and experienced pilot, discussed this safety concern from a pilot's perspective. PNM hosted the event at its Reeves Generating Station, where a hot air balloon and gondola were draped over a de-energized power line as a visual aid.

REPORTER TOOL KIT

Video / Pictures

[B-roll and soundbites from Andrew Cusimano, Manager for PNM's metro line department can be found here.](#)

"Preparedness is key," said Andrew Cusimano, manager of line operations for PNM. "Should a balloon hit a power line, it's imperative that PNM and local first responders work cohesively to respond and keep everyone safe."

Tips to keep you and your family safe:

- If you see a hot air balloon entangled in power lines, do not approach. Call 911 immediately and then call PNM at 888-DIAL-PNM.
- Touching a balloon wrapped in power lines could cause a chain reaction that can injure those trying to help and anyone inside the balloon's gondola. Even if the line is not sparking or arcing, always assume that it's energized.
- Electricity seeks the nearest path to ground, which means an energized power line that poses no danger to a balloon hanging on one wire could become deadly if someone touches the ground and the balloon or tether at the same time.
- Keep your eyes on the road when driving. Every year outages affecting thousands of customers are caused by vehicles hitting power poles or other electrical equipment. As hot air balloons fill the sky, stay safe and focus on driving. Pull over in a safe location to watch and capture pictures of the hot air balloons.

How PNM prepares for Balloon Fiesta

PNM stations employees at Balloon Fiesta Park every morning during the Balloon Fiesta. PNM attends the pilot's meetings, stays on the field during mass ascensions, and relays balloon directions and activities with system operators. We remain in real-time communication with the field members and with PNM line crews who are ready to respond in the event of a balloon accident.