



# TIPS FOR STRIKING/POPPING BALLOONS TO AVOID PUBLIC PANIC

As balloon professionals, we all need to be aware of increased public sensitivity to loud popping sounds, particularly in succession, like those of popping balloons.

Providing notice of our intent to strike or “pop” balloons and finding ways to deflate them more quietly, can go a long way towards preventing misunderstandings and reducing anxiety in public settings.

## TBC recommends the following tips:

1. Avoid striking balloon displays while guests/public is present.
2. Indoors: Give the facility a time frame for when the striking/popping will occur and when finished.
3. Outdoors (parks/fields): Notify the event coordinator and make sure to inform local security and police when the striking/popping will occur and when finished.
4. If people are still in the area, just announce loudly that you will be “popping balloons” so there may be some loud noises for a few minutes.
5. If the display is small enough, take it with you and dispose of it at your store/facility/home.
6. Make sure to clean up and dispose of all the balloon debris (recycle/trash).



## NEWS STORIES

A sorority popping balloons triggered a campus lockdown at the University of Michigan. (*Detroit News* 3/25/19)

Popping balloons spooked fans and caused a stampede during a Nipsey Hussle funeral procession in LA. (*Los Angeles Daily News* 4/11/19)

Balloons popping caused people to panic and run, and several were injured, at the Mississippi State Fair. (*WLBT-TV* 10/5/19)

## Tips to quietly deflate balloons:

### Latex:

- Hold the balloon and tuck it under your arm.
- Pinch the knot of the balloon between two fingers and gently pull the knot away from the balloon.
- Softly pinch the balloon just under the knot and using a scissor snip a hole, or cut the knot off.
- Relax the fingers you have pinching the balloon and let the air deflate.

### Foil: Can be deflated and reused!

- Carefully insert a plastic drinking straw through the colored plastic slip at the base of the balloon.
- Slowly squeeze the balloon to release air and fold up the balloon as you go.
- Remove the straw.
- Re-inflate when ready!