



Balloon Release

1. Policy Statement

Valdosta State University (VSU) prohibits balloon releases A) on all university-owned, -leased, or -operated property as well as B) by any student, employee, campus guest, or organization who is representing VSU. The release into the atmosphere of balloons inflated with lighter-than-air gases (hereafter, "balloon releases"), although often celebrating worthy causes, poses a danger and nuisance to the environment when balloons become entangled in trees and power lines or land on the ground or in waters, often far away. Invariably, the fallout constitutes litter, deposition of which is almost always an act made illegal by state and local governments and can also be a violation of private property rights. Balloon pollution is particularly injurious to wildlife, including marine animals such as endangered sea turtles, which mistake them for natural prey (jellyfish) and ingest them sometimes with lethal effect.

2. Purpose

While balloon releases are often celebratory in nature for worthy causes, the fallout constitutes litter (an act made illegal by state and local governments). Because balloon pollution is particularly injurious to endangered wildlife such as sea turtles, it poses as more than only a nuisance to the environment, it is a thr