

Remember that the flier of each kite is responsible for the safety of everyone within the path of his or her kite & kite line.

- *Never fly near power lines or try to free a kite caught in a power line. Call your local power company instead. Carbon spars used in most Sport kites are good conductors, and are very dangerous if caught in power lines. To see what happens to a kite when contacted with power lines, visit <http://windstarkites.com/WindandWeather.htm>
- *Never fly in stormy weather (remember Ben Franklin was very lucky not to have been killed by his famous experiment).
- *Never fly near trees; Your kite might get cut loose and out of control and it could damage both people and their property. Several people this year have had damage done to the finish on their cars and several kites have landed on people. When you consider the size of our fields, there is no reason for this.
- *Never use metallic flying line.
- *Never fly your kite near or over people. Politely instruct all spectators to stand behind you when your kite is being flown. Remember, the safety of others is the responsibility of the flyer!
- *Always be aware of your surroundings and mindful of others.
- *Avoid all other obstacles; besides the risk of entanglement in trees, you should not fly near roads & vehicles, and make sure that your flying area does not have obstructions such as posts and holes.
- *Special rules apply when flying near any Airport. If flying a kite within two miles of an airport, FAA regulations prohibit the use of any kite weighing over five pounds, and it is not permitted to fly any kite on line longer than 500 feet in length.
- *Always use extreme caution when flying large kites. It is considered by many to be advisable to Wear gloves when handling large kites. Never leave them unattended. Winds can change direction and intensity very quickly.
- *Sport & power kites need to be flown with particular care. Make sure that your kite can not self launch when setting up your kite, and follow all safety rules and instructions for the type of Sport or power kite you are flying. If a kite you plan to fly did not come with safety instructions, make sure you acquire the proper knowledge to safely control the kite. Periodically inspect your kite for broken or split spars and verify that the bridle and flying lines are not excessively frayed or worn. Also, do not leave your kite lines unattended while staked or lying on the ground. You do not want people to trip over your sport kite lines.
- * Fastening yourself to your kite line can lead to painful, serious injuries. Extra caution should be used if using a harness when traction or power flying. A harness should not be engaged if there is any doubt that total control can be maintained. It is also advisable to use a quick release system if you are attached to your kite.
- *Never over power yourself with a kite too large for wind conditions or fly a kite that you can't safely control.
- *Never cut line and release a kite (the only exception to this rule is within the confines of a controlled fighter kite battle).
- *Always be prepared for the worst. Fly your kite with the assumption that you will lose control and crash at anytime due to pilot error or equipment failure. With this mindset, you will ensure that your flying area and the immediate surroundings are free of people and the other dangerous circumstances mentioned above.
- ***LINE SAFETY:** Always avoid crossing different types of flying line. That's right, you heard correctly, line safety is an issue that is very seldom mentioned, but is extremely important! A fact that all fliers should know, and many are not aware of, is that not all kite line is created equal! Most other lines can cut Spectra line, which is most commonly used for stunt kite flying. Although Spectra line uses very strong woven fibers, it has a very low melting point. Therefore the friction produced by any other type of line crossing Spectra will swiftly cause the line to be cut. Many single line fliers, and beginner Sport kite fliers (and even fliers with some experience) do not realize that cotton or Dacron line can be very hazardous to Spectra lines, the sport kites being flown, the flyers and spectators within the flying area. These lines used for single line, and some low-end sport kites can be the cause of major problems on the flying field. If a sport kite flying at high speed has one or all of its lines cut, that kite can go out of control, possibly causing injury or even death to anyone within its path. I have witnessed 20# cotton line cutting 300# Spectra. You can be fairly sure that any flyer using 300# or 200# Spectra will be under serious power, and if the lines are cut, this can end in disaster. Also do not be fooled with smaller Sport kites using lighter kite lines. The smaller the Sport kite, the faster its relative speed for any given wind speed, compared to its larger counterparts. A fast moving kite can cause serious injury, especially if out of control of its flyer. Always remember that not only the kites themselves, but also kite lines can cause serious injury. Many Sport kites are capable of flying at very high speeds in higher winds. If your sport kite is flying at 60 mph, so are the ends of the lines closest to the kite. Imagine a cheese slicer moving at the speed of your kite (yes that is an exaggeration, but it's not that far off). Please remember these points, fly safely & enjoy kiting!
- *******General rules of thumb to maintain Line Safety:**
- ***Kevlar line will cut all other lines** (for this reason, this line is very seldom used in kite flying, except under special applications)
- ***Fighter kite Line (waxed line or glass coated)**, will cut most other lines, depending on the line. Tradition Fighter Kite Line is meant to be used for cutting lines of other Fighter kites. In fighter kite competitions of this nature, the last fighter kite that remains in the sky is the winner. Fighter kite (cutting line) should not be used for any other type of kite flying.
- ***Cotton line will cut most lines (except Kevlar)**, because it is a natural fiber and has no oil based byproduct within its fibers. Cotton line is used mostly for inexpensive kites.
- ***Dacron line will cut Spectra (but not Cotton or Kevlar)**. Dacron is commonly used for used for single line kites.
- ***Spectra line will be cut by all other lines** (including Spectra/Dacron blends, sometimes called Sport line). Spectra is the ideal line for Sport and Power kite flying because it has very high strength, but very low stretch, with the capability of having many wraps in the lines, and the flyer can still maintain control.

Contact Con Engels in the US at (724) 869-4488 for extra copies of this...

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