

Kite Safety...

No one I know of has yet advocated the wearing of helmets and shoulder-pads for kite flying. However, there are certain things about kite-flying which the average kite flyer should keep in mind.

1. Probably the biggest no-no is flying a kite in the presence of lightening. Most people know how Benjamin Franklin did this stunt to prove that lightening was indeed electricity. Nevertheless, this would be a highly dangerous maneuver that can result in severe injuries and even death. So **DON'T FLY A KITE IN A THUNDER-STORM.**

2. Even though a kite is built to be light, there are some rigid materials in it. It can accelerate to the degree that getting hit with a plummeting diamond or delta could actually hurt quite badly. It hasn't happened often by kites have even been known to draw

blood. This means you shouldn't be flying a kite low to the ground directly over people who are unaware of what you are about. This also goes for flying a kite near vehicles. Flying a kite in traffic or near parked vehicles is also a mistake.

3. Sure that kite string is only a thin line, but wrapped around someone's neck it can create real injuries. Kite string can also get tangled with the lines of other neighboring kites.

4. Don't fly a kite near electrical wires, many kites are made with graphite spars which can conduct electricity. The admonition in rule 1 goes for rule 4 as well. Electricity is a handy energy source for most purposes, but we don't want it coursing through our bodies. If you should get a kite caught in electrical wires or even in a kite-eating tree, it might be wise to get professional assistance for retrieval.

So, you didn't realize that kite flying was such a dangerous sport? Well, really it is quite safe, just use a little common sense and adhere rigidly to the four rules above. Go out there and have fun!

