



Town of Emerald Isle

Important Beach Regulations

The main reason people come to Emerald Isle is obvious... to enjoy the beautiful beaches. Please adhere to the following beach regulations to ensure that everyone's visit to the beach is as enjoyable as possible. Questions about the Town's beach regulations can be directed to the Town Manager's office at 252-354-3424, the Fire Department Beach Patrol at 252-354-2445, or the Police Department at 252-354-2021.

- **Beach tents, canopies** and other beach equipment must be removed from the beach strand each night. Town staff will confiscate any unattended beach tents, canopies and other equipment left out during the overnight hours. Oceanfront property owners may qualify for a special exemption.
- **Camping overnight** is not permitted on the beach strand.
- **Cigarette butts** should not be left on the beach, but should be properly discarded.
- **Dogs** are permitted on the beach strand, but must be kept on a leash at all times. Dog excrement must be collected and removed from the beach strand. Trash containers are located at each public beach access on both the beach and street sides.
- **Driving on the beach** is allowed for four wheel drive vehicles with a Town-issued permit between the dates of September 15 and April 30 only (closed to driving during Easter week). Visit the Town Administration Building at 7509 Emerald Drive to purchase an annual permit or call 252-354-3424. Beach vehicle access ramps are located at the 3000 block of Ocean Drive (the "dog-leg"), the end of Black Skimmer Drive, the end of Doe Drive and at The Point.
- **Dunes** are the Town's first line of defense in storms and hurricanes. Climbing on the dunes is not permitted.
- **Fires** are not permitted on the beach strand.
- **Fireworks** that leave the ground and/or explode are illegal. The Police Department will confiscate any illegal fireworks and file appropriate charges.
- **Holes in the sand** deeper than 12 inches must be filled in completely when you leave the beach. Large holes are a safety hazard for others using the beach, as well as for nesting sea turtles and their offspring.
- **Horseback riding** is allowed on the beach between September 15 and April 30 only (closed to horseback riding during Easter week). Horseback riders should use the beach vehicle access ramps to access the beach. No permit is required. Horse excrement must be collected and removed from the beach strand.
- **Jet skis and other personal watercraft** may not be operated at a speed greater than five miles per hour within 200 feet of the shoreline or within 500 feet of an ocean fishing pier.
- **Leaping from an ocean fishing pier** is illegal.
- **Littering on the beach** is illegal and will not be tolerated. Please use the numerous trash cans and recycling containers located at every public beach access.
- **Red flags** in place on the beach strand mean surf conditions are extremely dangerous and swimming is not advised.
- **Sea turtle nests** are marked with wooden posts, tape and signage, and should be avoided. The Town is a sea turtle sanctuary, and works diligently to protect sea turtles.
- **Surfing** is not permitted within 200 feet of the ocean fishing pier.

RIP CURRENT SAFETY

If caught in an ocean rip current:

- Remain calm to conserve energy and think clearly.
- Never fight against the current.
- Think of the rip current like a treadmill that cannot be turned off, but that you can step to the side of.
- Swim out of the current in a direction following the shoreline. When out of the current, swim at an angle, away from the current, towards shore.
- If you are unable to swim out of the rip current, float or calmly tread water. When out of the current, swim towards shore.
- If you are still unable to reach shore, draw attention to yourself by waving your arms and yelling for help.