



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 at 252-354-2445, or the Police Department at 252-354-2021.

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 exemption.

Camping Overnight is not permitted on the beach strand.

Dogs are permitted on the beach strand, but must be kept on a leash. Dog excrement must be collected and removed from the beach strand.

Dunes need to be protected. Climbing, lying or playing on the dunes is strictly prohibited.

Driving on the Beach is allowed for 4-wheel drive vehicles with a Town-issued permit between Sept. 15 and Apr. 30, except for a 10 day window around Easter. You can purchase your permit at emeraldisle-nc.org under the Police Dept. tab or at the Police Dept. at 7500 Emerald Dr. Individuals are required to watch a short video and pass a quiz before applying for a permit. Access ramps are located at the 3000 block of Ocean Dr. (the "dog leg"), the end of Black Skimmer Dr. and The Point.

Fires are not permitted on the beach strand. This includes grilling.

Fireworks that leave the ground and/or explode are illegal.

Holes in the sand deeper than 12 inches must be filled in completely when you leave the beach.

Leaping from an ocean fishing pier is illegal.

Surfing is not permitted within 200 feet of the ocean fishing pier.

Littering is illegal. Please use one of the numerous trash cans and recycling containers located at every public access.

Horseback Riding is allowed on the beach between Sept. 15 and Apr. 30, except for a 10 day window around Easter. One day permits are available for \$10 and \$50 for an annual permit, with some free exemptions. A Coggins test for the horses is required when purchasing permits at the Police Dept. at 7500 Emerald Dr. Horses must have a bun bag or manure catcher when being ridden off private property.

Jet skis and other Personal Watercraft may not be operated at more than 5 MPH within 200 feet of the shore or 500 feet of the pier.

Red Flags indicate that surf conditions are extremely dangerous. The Town recommends staying out of the water on red flag days.

The Emergency Lane is the 20 feet at the base of the dunes towards the ocean that should remain clear of beach equipment to allow passage of emergency vehicles.

Sea Turtle Nests are marked with wooden posts and signage. The Town works diligently to protect sea turtles.

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 you can step off of to the side.
- 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 on your back or calmly tread water. When out of the current, swim diagonally towards shore.
- If you are still unable to reach shore, draw attention to yourself by waving your arms and yelling for help.