



# Hurricane Re-entry Permit Policy

Original Adoption: February 23, 2009  
Updated: January 22, 2024



**Effective February 1, 2024, re-entry passes will no longer serve as parking passes in Atlantic Beach.**

During the February 23, 2009 Council meeting, the Emergency Operations Plan for Multi-Hazards basic plan for Atlantic Beach was unanimously approved by the Town Council. A portion of this plan is dedicated to access and re-entry to Bogue Banks after an event such as severe storm or hurricane. In 2011, re-entry passes were permitted to serve as free parking passes. The re-entry passes were  $\frac{1}{4}$  the fee of the annual parking pass and we began seeing the trend that people were buying re-entry passes to distribute to their extended family, renters, guests, and business clientele for free parking. After several years of operating this way, the decision was made to detach re-entry passes from parking with the intent of limiting the number of people able to access the Town when a State of Emergency had been issued. Re-entry passes will no longer serve as parking passes in Atlantic Beach starting in 2024. This update aims to provide added security for our property owners. Re-entry passes will still be required to cross the high-rise bridge into Atlantic Beach after a major storm. The old policy allowed the volume of re-entry passes issued to grow exponentially beyond what is appropriate to allow re-entry after a storm for property owners. By reducing the number of passes to property owners, the town will be in a better position to protect your property after a storm.

## **Pre- and Post-Storm:**

The NC Highway Patrol will monitor the effects of winds on the Atlantic Beach/Morehead Bridge. The NC Highway Patrol will restrict travel across the high-rise bridge when wind speeds prevent safe passage or there is a threat of lanes becoming impassable due to over-turned vehicles or other blockages due to winds.

## **Post-Storm Activities:**

First, public safety officials survey the town to ensure re-entry for property owners and residents is safe. Second, once safety concerns are addressed, we would ask to allow those with a legitimate and vested interest to return to secure their property before allowing the general public access to Atlantic Beach. Third, once property owners have secured their property, allow for the town's reopening. The proposed plan is in place for two reasons: safety and to ensure only those who have a legitimate reason are allowed back on the island. The proposed process for the new re-entry passes will require the completion of a simple application to ensure passes are tied to properties for accountability. This will eliminate the need to repeat this process yearly. Re-entry passes will be valid during the duration of the current policy and can be changed at the discretion of the Council. We realize there may be some minor inconveniences but remember this is to protect your property.

## **Atlantic Beach Re-entry Permits:**

- Permits will only be issued Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM at Town Hall. Permits may be applied for online and will be mailed within 5 business days. No permits will be issued or mailed 24 hours before projected landfall. This restriction may be waived at the Town Manager's discretion.
- Separate re-entry permit applications are to be completed for each business, personal property, and real property. Applications must be completed in their entirety, and one application must be completed for each parcel.
- The parcel designates real and personal property, and businesses are linked to business registration.

- To be eligible, personal property must be listed for AB taxes. If it is not, the owner must go to the County and file the property for taxes and provide the town proof of filing with the parcel/account number listed prior to our issuance of passes.
- Several new owners have successfully contacted past owners, real estate agents, or closing attorneys to either get the passes back or be reimbursed for the cost of replacement passes.
- Personal property owners and real property owners may receive up to two permits at no charge per Parcel ID Number.
- Every business may receive up to one permit at no charge.
- Additional permits can be purchased for \$25 per additional permit, with no exceptions.
- Once a property owner or business owner receives their free permits, they may give the permit to any individual(s) of their choosing who may be in a better local position to check on the property, or additional permit(s) can be purchased for that purpose.
- Torn or worn permits that need to be replaced can be brought to Town Hall for replacement without charge.
- No refunds will be given for passes that have been purchased, even if they have "found" the original ones later.
- Passes may be conveyed to tenants at the property owner's discretion.
- Permits are assigned to specific parcel numbers, and all permits will be transferred at closing or at the transferring of the title. This is as important as receiving the keys, parking passes, or gate control cards at closing. If two permits have previously been assigned to the parcel number, the new owner will be charged the \$25 fee for each replacement permit requested. Several new owners have successfully contacted past owners, real estate agents, or closing attorneys to either get the passes back or be reimbursed for the cost of replacement passes.
- Re-entry passes have addresses written on them. If an officer stops a person/vehicle at an address that does not match their pass, the officer will not be able to verify that they own multiple places and, therefore, have a legitimate purpose for being on that other property. If they own multiple locations, they should have a pass with them that matches the location they are visiting.
- Re-entry permits issued from this point forward will remain valid indefinitely or until the Atlantic Beach Town Council updates or modifies this policy.