

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS IN ATLANTIC BEACH

The Town of Atlantic Beach has developed this list of FAQ's to help keep your visit to our Town and Beaches safe and enjoyable.

**Q: Can I have bonfires or fire pits on the beach?**

**A:** No. Open burning and bonfires are not allowed on the beaches or within the city limits of Atlantic Beach. Fire pits are not allowed on the beaches. Recreational fires and fire pits are allowed on private property provided they are at least 25 feet from structures and combustible vegetation.

**Q: Can I grill on the beach?**

**A:** Charcoal grills are prohibited on all beaches and dunes. Small portable propane (Coleman fuel type) grills are permitted on the beaches within the city limits of Atlantic Beach. Grills and cooking devices must be located at least 50 feet from structures, decks, piers, walkways, sea grass and other vegetation with a competent person of age 16 or older attending the grill or cooking device at all times. Food, fuel, fuel containers, cooking devices and trash are prohibited from being buried in the sand, left on the beach, disposed of in trash cans or disposed of in the ocean or sound. These items should be properly extinguished and disposed of on the property of the individual/s responsible for them.

**Q: Can I use a grill or have grills stored on my balcony or deck?**

**A:** Other than One and Two-Family dwellings (Private single residence or duplex), grill storage and use guidelines are as follows:

Charcoal burners and other open flame cooking devices can be stored, but are prohibited from use on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction, unless buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.

LP Gas grills and burners are prohibited from storage and use on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction.

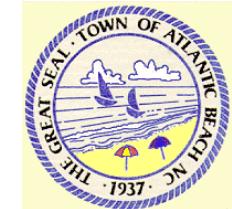
**Q: Are Fireworks allowed in Atlantic Beach?**

**A:** Any fireworks that explode, spin, leave the ground, jump or fly through the air are **ILLEGAL** in North Carolina. This includes firecrackers, ground spinners, roman candles, bottle rockets and mortars. Purchasing banned fireworks and bringing them into North Carolina is also **ILLEGAL**. Examples of **LEGAL** fireworks are sparklers, fountains, "glow worms" and snap pops.

Outdoor Fireworks Displays by pyrotechnic professionals require an Operational permit from the Fire Marshal's Office.

**Q: Can I set up tents or canopies on the beaches?**

**A:** Overnight camping on the beaches is prohibited in the city limits of Atlantic Beach. Small shade canopies less than 100 sq. ft. (10 x 10) are permitted on the beaches provided they are properly secured, attended and not left on the beach overnight. Obstacles (tents, canopies, chairs, etc). left on the beach overnight are adversely affecting our nesting sea turtles and their hatchlings.



**Q: Can I set up tents or canopies on my property?**

**A:** Yes. Tents (having 75% of sides covered) and canopies (having no side walls) less than 400 sq. ft. are permissible.

Tents/canopies in excess of 400 square feet (with some exceptions) require an Operational permit from the Fire Marshal's Office.

**Q: Are there any public beach accesses with lifeguards and restrooms?**

**A:** Yes. Lifeguards are on duty seven days a week from 9 AM to 6 PM, Memorial Day to Labor Day at the Main Beach Public Access, complete with parking and a bathhouse, at the "Circle".

**Q: Can I take my dog on the beach?**

**A:** Yes. Dogs are permitted on the beach strand and must be on a leash at all times, except dogs are not allowed in lifeguard protected areas beyond 20 feet from the water's edge.

**Q: Can I have glass bottles or containers on the beach?**

**A:** No. Glass bottles or containers are prohibited from being on the public beach everywhere in town.

**Q: Where can't I park when going to the beach?**

**A:** You cannot park on sidewalks, in front of public or private driveways, within 25 feet of any intersection, within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, on any crosswalks, on any paved portion of a town street with any portion of the vehicle in the roadway. Anywhere a sign is posted prohibiting parking.

**Q: Does the town have a noise ordinance?**

**A:** Yes. The use of any instrument, TV, radio, stereo or sound amplifying device so loudly that it disturbs other persons in the vicinity could be determined by responding officers as a violation. A Special Event Application for a sound permit should be requested at least 48 hours prior to the event.

## **Phone Numbers to Know**

 Town Hall (252) 726-2121

 Inspection Dept (252) 726-4456

 Police Dept (252) 726-2523

 Fire Dept (252) 726-7361

 Public Works (252) 726-1366

 Water Dept (252) 726-1366

 If you call and for some reason the party you are seeking is busy, please leave a direct message for that person. We will endeavor as always to return your call promptly.

**FOR EMERGENCIES CALL 911**

 [www.atlanticbeach-nc.com](http://www.atlanticbeach-nc.com) / [tab@atlanticbeach-nc.com](mailto:tab@atlanticbeach-nc.com)

## **Animal Control**

County Animal Control is working with the town and together we have established a new process for citizens to follow for deploying animal traps. Citizens who have problems with feral cats can contact the Police Department and sign out a trap. The town will provide traps and food for citizens to pick up and set. Once the traps have been loaned to citizens the town will notify County Animal Control of the citizens' name, address and telephone number. The following day county animal control will check issued traps and if there are animals in traps animal control will take the trap and deal with animals appropriately. Animal control will return the trap to the town once the animal is removed. County Animal Control will check traps Monday through Friday and if there are no animals in traps, employees checking the traps will deactivate traps on Friday and re-set traps on Monday morning. County Animal Control does not have personnel to check traps on weekends or holidays. Therefore traps must remain deactivated Saturday and Sunday, and during holidays, to avoid trapped animals from going without food and water over the weekends.

## **No Wake Zones**

No wake zones on the west side of the Atlantic Beach Bridge are in effect from the shoreline 200 feet north (away from shoreline) and are marked no wake. There is a line of white buoys placed 200 feet from the shoreline to help identify the restricted wake areas. If you are between the white buoys and shore you are in a no wake area. All other No Wake Zones are marked by signs and buoys. If you have additional questions feel free to contact us.

## **Public Beach Accesses**

(1) **Bathhouse - W Atlantic at Circle** provides 64 parking spaces, bathroom facilities, picnic tables, and outside showers.

(2) **The Circle** has on-street and designated oceanfront parking along East Drive, Atlantic Blvd, and West Drive.

(3) **New Bern Ave.** provides 50 parking spaces, bathroom facilities, picnic tables, and outside showers.

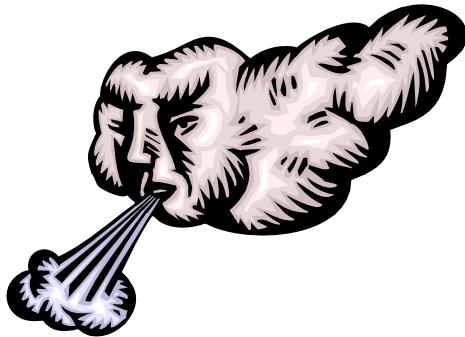
(4) **Henderson Blvd** provides parking spaces, bathroom facilities, small playground, and gazebo.

(5) **Bathhouse - Fort Macon** provides 317 parking spaces, outside showers, informational kiosk, picnic gazebos, oceanfront gazebo, and bathroom facilities.

(6) **Fort & Inlet Access** is located at Fort Macon proper and provides 277 parking spaces, bathroom facilities, and an overlook gazebo.

These facilities are those areas where the parking/access points are entirely owned or leased by one of the Bogue Banks communities or the State of North Carolina. Although not identified on the following maps, there are several establishments along the island that allow for seasonal or paid parking & access, such as the fishing piers along Bogue Banks and the Doubletree Hotel located in Atlantic Beach.

# HURRICANE SEASON!



Being ready for them is a lot of work. Hurricane season officially runs from June 1 to November 30. Traditionally, the highest number of storms that hit the Crystal Coast occurs in September.

## BE PREPARED!!!

### Before a Hurricane Strikes

- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries.
- Make plans for protecting your house, especially the roof, windows and doors.
- Trim dead or weak branches from trees.
- Check into flood insurance.

### Hurricane Watch/Warning Issued

- Listen to radio or television for hurricane progress reports.
- Check your emergency supplies. Store water in clean bathtubs, jugs, bottles and cooking utensils.
- Bring in outdoor objects.
- Fuel your car.
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting.
- Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container.
- Turn off water to docks and piers.
- If Evacuation Is Necessary**
  - Leave as soon as possible if evacuation is ordered.
  - Secure your home.
  - Turn off electricity and main water valve.

### After the Hurricane Passes

- Return home only after authorities say it is safe to do so.
- Beware of downed/loose power lines.
- Enter your home with caution. Open windows and doors to ventilate or dry your home.
- Look for electrical system damage.
- Take pictures of the damage for insurance claims."

### Water Usage After A Hurricane

In order to maintain the integrity of our water system and that adequate fire protection will be maintained at all times during and immediately following a storm or power outage, the we request that you practice the following:

- Always assume that the town is under a SEVER WATER RESTRICTION situation
- Use only the minimum amount of water needed for daily living activities
- Please refrain from "washing down" anything until everything has returned to normal.
- Check all inside/outside faucets and spigots for any type of leakage
- Make sure all lawn sprinkling systems are turned off
- Report the location of free-flowing water to the water department or police department

We realize that this request causes almost as much of an inconvenience as a hurricane or power outage. These procedures are necessary in order to help relieve any stress that may be placed on the town's water system created by either storm damage or prolonged power outage.

We would like to thank everyone for their cooperation and assistance in maintaining the integrity of the town's water system during and after a storm or prolonged power outage event.

## Sea Turtle Program

Town staff join together, and encourage our citizens, in providing assistance for the NC Wildlife Resources Commissions' Coastal Faunal Diversity Program's NC Sea Turtle Program.

Each summer in Atlantic Beach, Sea Turtle Nesting season is from May 1 through October. Of the seven sea turtle species, five are found in NC waters and loggerheads are the most common turtle nesting on NC beaches. These amazing animals need to be protected.

To help protect these endangered animals, NC Wildlife Resources Commission has volunteers that walk the beaches every morning looking for sea turtle crawls that indicate a nest has been laid. The nest is then roped off until it hatches, 50-60 days later. Before the nests hatch, volunteers watch the nests in the evening to help ensure the hatchlings make it to the ocean.

**How can you help?**  
Turn off or shield bright ocean-side lights during nesting season so turtles don't get confused when trying to reach the ocean.

When walking the beach at night, use flashlights with a red filter. The red light will not distract or deter the turtles.

Take care of your trash and pick up

litter so sea turtles and other animals don't choke or become entangled.

Remove all chairs, umbrellas, cabanas and other obstacles overnight to help provide safe movement for and prevent obstructions to, nesting sea turtles during Summer-Fall nesting season. They may block nesting females and new hatchlings.

Fill in any holes you find dug on the beach. People and nesting females can fall into holes and injure themselves.

Keep your pets and children away from designated nest sites on the beach.

Visit [www.seaturtle.org](http://www.seaturtle.org) to learn more about sea turtles.

Help protect sea turtle nests by volunteering with the North Carolina Sea Turtle Project. Contact the Atlantic Beach Sea Turtle Volunteer Coordinator, Michele Lamping ([michele.lamping@ncdenr.gov](mailto:michele.lamping@ncdenr.gov)).

Report any nesting activity or injured and dead turtles you encounter to the NC Wildlife Resources Sea Turtle Assistance Biologist at 252-247-8117, or call the Aquarium, 252-247-4003.



## RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES AND RECYCLING

Do you recycle? If not, consider this: It's good for the environment. It conserves landfill space. It helps to cut the cost of disposing of solid waste. The Town and Waste Industries strongly urges you to recycle.

Recyclables can be co-mingled in your recycling container. Items permitted are:

Glass: green, brown and clear. (no mirrors/window panes).

Paper: magazines, phone books, white mixed. (no sticker labels on paper)  
Bundle newspaper & put on top of recycling bin items.

Cans: aluminum, steel, tin.

Plastic containers, (drinking #1 & 2 only).

The green 18 gal. recycling bins can be picked up at the Public Works Department at no charge between the hours of 8:00 and 4:30 and should be set by the curb by 7:00 am on Mondays for pickup. For more information about curbside recycling, give us a call at (252) 726-1366.

Also, the Town has a drop off station located at the western end of Atlantic Station shopping center (near the movie theater) that accepts plastic and cans.