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Frequently Asked Questions

The Town of Atlantic Beach Fire Department 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 that the total fuel area does not exceed 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height. Recreational fires and fire pits must be 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 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. The 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 may be approved if properly permitted and supervised.

Q: Can I set up tents on the beaches or on my property?

A: Overnight camping on the beaches is prohibited in the city limits of Atlantic Beach. Small shade canopies less than 100 square feet are permitted on the beaches provided they are properly secured, attended and not left on the beach overnight.

Tents (having sides over 75% of the coverage area) and canopies (open sides) are permitted with the following provisions:

- Tents and canopies in excess of 400 square feet require an operational permit.
 1. Exceptions:
 - a. Tents and canopies used exclusively for recreational purposes.
 - b. Tents/canopies open on all sides that comply with all of the following:
 - i. Individual tents/canopies not greater than 700 sq. ft.
 - ii. The aggregate area of multiple tents does not exceed 700 sq. ft.
 - iii. Minimum clearance of 12 feet from structures and other tents.