

**TOWN OF NAGS HEAD
REGULATIONS GOVERNING OFF-ROAD VEHICLES**

The general rules of operation on Beach Driving are listed below for quick reference along with a summary of the Town of Nags Head ordinance (the complete Town ordinance can be found on our web site at www.nagsheadnc.gov/173/beach-driving). Please familiarize yourself with these rules. Please understand that driving an off-road vehicle on the beaches of Nags Head is a privilege. **The Town Manager shall have the authority to close any vehicle access point and portion of the beach at any time for any reason.** Due to beach populations and weather, busier areas of the beach may be closed to beach driving at the beginning and end of the season and will be re-evaluated and opened as conditions warrant. The Town has made every effort to accommodate four-wheel drive vehicles on the beach. At the same time, in order to ensure your safety, the safety of pedestrians, and the protection of the beaches, the Town must enforce certain regulations with respect to beach driving privileges. These rules are as follows:

- Beach Driving Permits are authorized to be used on the designated ocean beach areas within both the Town of Nags Head and the Town of Kill Devil Hills jurisdictions only during the beach driving season from one-half hour prior to sunrise on October 1 until one-half hour past sunset on April 30 of the following year.
- Stay off the dunes and private property. The Nags Head dune system is very fragile and can be destroyed by vehicles running over the vegetation. Please stay to the east or ocean side of any sand fence or dune vegetation. Under no circumstances does a beach driving permit allow you to drive your vehicle on private property without the express permission of the owner.
- Enter and exit the beach at designated and marked access points only.
- The speed limit on the beach is now **15 mph**. **The town strongly encourages all beach drivers to reduce tire air pressure to 20 psi.**
- **Display your permit on the left front bumper of the vehicle (driver's side).** In the case of a bona fide fishing tournament, a temporary permit signed and sealed by the town clerk may substitute for a device or insignia which must be displayed in front dash of the vehicle when being operated on the beach.
- Only four-wheel drive vehicles that are properly registered in the state in which the vehicle is licensed are eligible to receive beach driving permits. ATVs, UTVs, and other similar off-road vehicles are not permitted on the beach. Vehicles must also have current inspections as required by the state in which they are licensed within.
- Applications for beach driving permits will be taken from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday in the Municipal Complex at 5401 S. Croatan Highway. Additionally, Town designated tackle shops will also distribute applications and permits during their normal business hours. When applying for the permit, please have a valid driver's license, current vehicle registration and license plate number. **The fee is currently \$25.00 per season**, subject to change by the Board of Commissioners. Beach drivers must comply with all local regulations having to do with licensing, registration, inspection and insurance before a permit will be issued.
- **Permits may also be obtained online at www.nagsheadnc.gov/173/beach-driving.**
- Short term permits up to 14 days duration may be issued for a bona fide fishing tournament. Such permits may be issued after application by an organization meeting the requirements of this division sponsoring a bona fide fishing tournament. Such application shall be made three weeks in advance of the tournament and shall include the inclusive dates, not exceeding 14 days, and the number of permits required. Applications shall be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for approval.
- Pedestrians, swimmers and bathers shall have the right-of-way over all vehicles being operated on the beach.
- All other state motor vehicle regulations as provided by G.S. §§ 160A-205, 160A-175, and Chapter 20 shall be enforced on the beach.
- Should you have any additional questions concerning beach driving, please call the Nags Head Town Hall (252-441-5508) during regular business hours (M-F 8:30 am to 5:00 pm).

Suggested equipment to carry while driving on the beach: shovel, jack, tow rope or chain, board or similar jack support, low pressure tire gauge, approved tires, and a spare tire. If your vehicle gets stuck in the sand and you need assistance, you will need to call a tow company. For all other emergencies (police, fire, ambulance, and ocean rescue) **DIAL 911**.

OTHER IMPORTANT TOWN REGULATIONS

PIT FIRES - A permit must be obtained from the Nags Head Fire Department (252-441-5909) prior to setting or lighting a pit fire. Permits for any type of fire can only be issued by the Nags Head office of the Fire Marshal (www.nagsheadfirerescue.com).

CAMPING REGULATIONS – Camping on the beaches of the town is prohibited.

DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH – See chapter 4, Article I, Animal Control of the Nags Head town Code of Ordinances. Animals on the beach shall be restrained by a leash, cord, or chain not exceeding ten (10) feet in length, held by a person who is physically able to control the animal. A collar or harness with attached current vaccination and identification tags must be worn at all times except when the dog is contained to the owner's premises. All feces shall be removed immediately. Burying feces in the sand or depositing in the ocean is prohibited and constitutes a violation of the Town Ordinance.