



# Horry County Fire Rescue Fire and Life Safety Tips for a Safe Vacation



The members from Horry County Fire Rescue welcome you to our community.

We want you and your family to have a Fun Vacation, and we also want to ensure you have a Safe Vacation. This document provides you with several important “Vacation Safety Tips” for you to utilize during your stay.

Please take a few minutes to review these Safety Tips with the entire family.

## Know the Street Address and Unit Number where you are staying

Our goal is to reach you in the quickest manner possible. Ensure everyone in your family knows the Street Number, Street Name, and Unit or Lot Name and Number where you are staying. To report an **EMERGENCY**, call 9-1-1, and provide the correct address, type of problem, your name, and phone number

**OCCUPANCY ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you spend time on the ocean, determine the closest cross-street to the Beach Access you utilize. It is also helpful to send someone to the road side of the Beach Access to meet emergency responders

**CROSS STREET TO BEACH:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Develop and Practice an Escape Plan for your Family

As with your families primary residence, we feel it is critical to develop and practice a “Home Escape Plan” when you are sleeping overnight in our community. Include all family members and friends in the plan.

- Determine **TWO EXITS** from each sleeping area (High-rise buildings may have multiple stairways)
- **NEVER** use an elevator to exit a building in the event of a fire, always use the stairways to exit
- Have a **DESIGNATED MEETING PLACE** outside of the house, condo, or hotel where everyone meets
- Practice the **ESCAPE PLAN** the first day you arrive at your destination, include all family members
- The practice will ensure you know where all stairways are located and where they exit the building
- Designate an adult to provide assistance to small children, the elderly, or others needing assistance
- Have an adult meet the first Fire Engine to give them particulars on the incident and anyone missing

## Safety In the Kitchen

Please ensure you are vigilant when cooking while on vacation. Unfortunately, fires in the kitchen, predominantly while frying foods, are the “Number One” cause of fires across our community.

- Ensure someone is **ALWAYS IN THE KITCHEN** whenever you are cooking with oil or grease, or broiling
- If a fire were to occur on the stove top, immediately cover the burning pan with a top or a cookie sheet
- **NEVER** attempt to move or carry a burning pan of food, and **NEVER** put water on an oil or grease fire
- Know where the fire extinguishers are located in your home, and use the **PASS** method to operate

~**P**ull the Pin ~**A**im Nozzle ~**S**queeze the Handle ~**S**weep Nozzle at the Base of the Fire

# **Horry County Fire Rescue**

## **Fire and Life Safety Tips for a Safe Vacation**

### **Safety in the Ocean and Swimming Pool**

- Life Guards are not always available, please have a **"Designated Child Watcher"** at all times
- A **"Designated Child Watcher"** should not be involved in ANY OTHER ACTIVITY when designated
- Utilize Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Devices for those who cannot swim
- Toys which are filled with air are not Life Saving Devices and should not be used as such

### **Be Aware of the Rip Currents in the Ocean**

- Rip Currents are channels of water which forcefully flow away from the shore
- A Rip Current will pull swimmers, even those experienced, away from the shore line
- Rip Current clues are breaks in incoming wave patterns, churning & choppy water, water color change
- For more Information on Rip Current Safety go to <https://www.weather.gov/safety/ripcurrent>

### **Cooking on Charcoal and LP Gas Grills**

- Never utilize grills on Balconies or Patios of multi-family occupancies (Hotels, Motels, Apartments, Condominiums)
- All grills should be at least 10 feet from any structure when being utilized, never against siding, deck railings or under eaves or overhanging branches
- When finished grilling with a Gas Grill, always turn off the gas bottle
- Never use gasoline or any other flammable liquid except charcoal starter or lighter fluid to start a charcoal fire
- Completely drown the ashes of a charcoal grill with water
- Never leave a hot barbecue grill unattended, and maintain a 3-foot "Kid-Free Zone" around the grill
- Propane, charcoal, and wood pellet grills and smokers must only be used outdoors

### **Stay Alert to Changes in the Weather**

- Download and monitor a local Weather App on your cell phone or Tablet
- Set Severe Weather alerts on the device
- Always leave the beach or swimming area in the event of lightning or a thunder storm

### **Safety Features in your Residence**

- Ensure the Smoke Alarms are operational
- Know the location of the Fire Extinguisher if they are provided in your unit or in the commons areas
- In the event of a fire or fire alarm, always use stairs to exit a structure , NEVER use the elevator
- Call 9-1-1 for emergencies requiring Fire, EMS, and Police

## **Horry County Fire Rescue**

Horry County Fire Rescue provides all-hazards response to all the unincorporated areas in Horry County, SC. This includes Fire, Emergency Medical Services, Technical Rescue, and Hazardous Materials response to meet the needs of our citizens, businesses and visitors. Additionally, the department is very active with water related emergencies, responding to water-rescue incidents in the ocean and waterways from multiple locations.

**For Emergency Situations requiring Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement, please dial 9-1-1**

There are multiple Hospitals and Medical Facilities across our community who provide medical assistance for minor medical situations, in the event a need arises for your family to seek non-emergency care. There are also several Pharmacies and Drug Stores situated throughout our entire community.

Twitter: @hcfirerescue    [www.horrycountyfirerescue.com](http://www.horrycountyfirerescue.com)

Instagram: [horrycountyfirerescue](https://www.instagram.com/horrycountyfirerescue)    Facebook: Horry County Fire Rescue

**For additional information, reach us at 843-915-5606**

**Prevent Harm ~ Survive ~ Be Nice**

April, 2023