



# Town of Kill Devil Hills: Tips for Safe Beach Driving

## Avoid Damaging Vegetation

- Drive only on the ocean side of the dune line.
- Do not drive on or between the dunes, except on marked routes.
- The map in the Beach Driving packet shows the location of the exits to and from the beach.

## Drive Safely

- The speed limit is 25 miles per hour or as posted.
- Beach pedestrians always have the right-of-way. The speed limit is reduced to 15 miles per hour within 100 feet of any person lying, standing, or walking on the beach. Drive slowly and detour around them. **Stay alert for children and pets!**
- Watch for fishing lines.
- Open alcoholic beverage containers are illegal in moving vehicles. Never drink and drive. No glass containers are allowed on the beach.

## Protect the Beach and Its Wildlife

- Be alert for and obey signs which indicate closed areas for turtle nests and other protected and non-protected wildlife.

## Preparations

- The weather can change quickly here. Check the weather forecasts and tide tables before starting your trip.
- Some sections of the beach may be impassable at high tide and during bad weather.
- Ask KDH Ocean Rescue Division – 252-480-0080 about current beach conditions.
- The beach is constantly changing and may be totally different from the last time you drove on it. Ruts and berms can form with the changing tides.
- Know your surroundings at all times in case you need to call for assistance and direct help to your location as quickly as possible.

## Tire pressure

- Lower the pressure in all tires to a recommended 20-25 pounds before you drive onto the sand. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for your vehicle.
- The softer the sand, the lower the pressure needed for better traction.
- Re-inflate tires to normal pressure as soon as possible upon returning to the mainland.
- On paved roads, low tire pressure can affect vehicle braking and maneuverability.





## Town of Kill Devil Hills: Tips for Safe Beach Driving

### Know your vehicle's limitations

- Always assume someone may be on the other side of the dune when you cannot safely see over the dune.

### Carry an off-road kit containing the following equipment

- tire pressure gauge
- first aid kit
- shovel
- spare tire
- air pump
- tow rope (at least 14 feet long with load strength of 20,000 pounds.)
- litter bag
- flashlight/batteries
- bumper jack with base support board
- extra boards (for traction)
- water (since vehicles can quickly overheat on the sand)
- fire extinguisher

### Also

- Keep your cell phone protected from the environment.
- Know the times for sunrise and sunset the day you plan to drive on the beach.
- If you need help, but it is not a life threatening emergency, call 252-473-3444 for assistance. (Example: your vehicle becomes stuck too close to the ocean water on a rising tide.)
- For the protection of your vehicle – rinse it off after you leave the beach.

*Kill Devil Hills beach driving regulations may be found on the Town's Website: <http://www.kdhnc.com/572/Town-Code> Chapter 96.  
Specific information on beach driving begins at Section 96.20.*