



SEA TURTLE PROTECTION - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(Updated February 11, 2019)

How will sea turtles be protected during the beach renourishment project in Surfside?

In coordination with Miami-Dade County, a person permitted by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to monitor sea turtle activity, will conduct daily visual inspections of the beach and sea turtle monitoring daily during sea turtle nesting season.

What happens if nests are found on the beach?

If Miami-Dade County Sea Turtle Conservation Program is authorized by FWC to relocate nests under their permit conditions, nests discovered shall be safely relocated to a nearby self-release beach location. Artificial lighting and/or other disturbances shall not interfere with successful incubation, hatching or hatchling orientation at the new nest site. After daily environmental species monitoring and sea turtle nest relocations have been completed and the area has been cleared, beach work will commence. However, operations only in the area delineated by the turtle observer will cease if sea turtles are present at any time.

What does the daily visual inspection entail?

It entails carefully clearing the beach for any sea turtle activity from the previous night and ensuring the safety of the turtles and their hatchlings before any beach construction activities can commence. All activity will be documented for permitting requirements.

What is the relocation process of a nest?

If designated by the FWC, nests will be relocated by trained authorized personnel from the construction area to a more appropriate location where eggs can safely incubate and hatchlings can make their way to the water with no obstructions.

Where is the nearby self-release beach location?

This is to be determined by FWC under the conditions of the permit when it is approved.

Will construction occur at the same time as sea turtle nesting/hatching?

Most sea turtle nesting and hatching is nocturnal and does not occur during the daytime when construction is taking place.

Who do I contact in the event of a sea turtle emergency?

The Miami-Dade County Sea Turtle Conservation Program is available on a 24/7 basis. Please contact Project Manager Teal Kawana at (305) 310-3046 or email teal.kawana@miamidade.gov.