

SALLY WARREN,  
GENERAL MANAGER

Dear Owners,

I am sure all owners were shocked and saddened to hear about the recent death in Sea Pines resulting from an alligator incident. We certainly send our condolences to the family and the entire Sea Pines community. Although alligator attacks are rare, they are a real threat in any area with lagoons in the Lowcountry. Shipyard has not had many incidents over time, but in 2012 a guest was fishing in the lagoon at night and was bitten on the ankle. At that time, management instituted a massive education campaign and had a special meeting with the regime managers and the timeshare managers to provide educational information on alligator safety including magnets for the villas, a letter from the Director of Safety and Security for all their check-in packages, and copies of brochures with alligator information and behavior. We also instituted alligator flyers that we include with their passes on check-in with alligator tips and reminders to fill in holes on the beach for the protection of the sea turtles.

You can find information on the shipyardhhi.com website under wildlife and can download this information if you rent your property or have guests visiting. As you can imagine, we have had a tremendous amount of calls and emails regarding alligator safety, and it is important to know that you should stay clear of the water's edge near lagoons, keep all animals on a leash at a safe distance from lagoons, never feed or harass an alligator, and to contact Security if you see anyone who is feeding or throwing things at the alligators. Our wildlife is an important part of the place we call home, and we need to learn to coexist by safe practices, education, and using common sense.



IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS & REMINDERS FOR SHIPYARD RESIDENTS

MEREDITH SIMMONS, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

### Alligator Education/Information Resources

- Access the latest **State of SC** alligator info via <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/alligator/index.html>
- Check out **Town of Hilton Head** news at <http://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/ourisland/NatResources/animals/americanalligator.cfm?menuheader=0>
- Please sign up for the **Shipyard POA** E-blast system via [communications@shipyardhhi.com](mailto:communications@shipyardhhi.com)
- Download the **Shipyard POA Wildlife Policy** at [www.shipyardhhi.com](http://www.shipyardhhi.com)

### COMMON SENSE & EDUCATION

- ✓ DO NOT APPROACH THE ALLIGATORS
- ✓ DO NOT FEED THE ALLIGATORS
- ✓ AVOID FEEDING FISH OR TURTLES AS IT MAY ATTRACT ALLIGATORS
- ✓ BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS/ KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE FROM LAGOONS
- ✓ KEEP PETS ON A LEASH AND FAR AWAY FROM LAGOON EDGES

LAWRENCE ALEXANDER,  
CHIEF OF SECURITY

### Alligator Safety

Population growth and the tourism industry have increased the frequency of human-alligator interactions in South Carolina. You can prevent unpleasant encounters by following these tips.

You are most likely to encounter alligators:

- when they are basking beside water.
- if you approach a female or her babies.
- while conducting recreational activities like swimming, canoeing, and fishing in waterways with alligators.
- when they are crossing the road.
- if they have been fed and have become habituated to humans.

#### HOW TO BE SAFE AROUND ALLIGATORS

- Don't feed alligators - This is the most important rule as feeding them threatens the safety of both people and animals.
- Keep your distance - Although they may look slow and awkward, alligators are powerful and move with startling bursts of speed on land over short distances.
- Do not attempt to move alligators out of the road - If you see an alligator on the move, leave it alone and let it pass.
- It is illegal to harass or throw things at alligators - They are living organisms that warrant respect, and it is not productive to annoy them.
- Never disturb nests or small alligators - Some female alligators protect their young and may become aggressive if provoked.
- Do not attempt to keep alligators as pets - Keeping a baby alligator as a pet is foolish, not to mention illegal in some states.
- Keep your pets and children away from alligators - Large alligators don't recognize the difference between domestic pets and wild food sources. When they are hungry, alligators act on their hunting instinct and might attempt to feed on your house pet if given the opportunity.



NEED TO CONTACT US?

**Shipyard Welcome Center**

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**JOE STRIVIERI**

ARB Chairman: EXT 1005

Stay in the KNOW!

Hilton Head Island • Bluffton  
**THE ISLAND PACKET**  
[islandpacket.com](http://islandpacket.com)

To read more about alligator attacks, removal, & safety, see the front page of August 27th's *Island Packet*, or visit <https://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/article217126265.html> to view the article on The Island Packet's website.