

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
OFFICE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

GEORGETOWN AND HORRY COUNTIES

**EMERGENCY ORDER
RETURNING SAND TO THE BEACH
22-EO-HI4**

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (the Department), an agency of the State of South Carolina, organized and existing under the authority of the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act, S.C. Code Ann. §48-39-10 *et seq.*, finds that emergency conditions have occurred associated with Hurricane Ian beginning on September 30, 2022, on beaches facing the Atlantic Ocean in Georgetown and Horry Counties in the State of South Carolina and therefore located within the “critical area” jurisdiction of the Department. These conditions may expose and create an imminent threat to the existing habitable structures or critical infrastructure on front beach properties.

The Department finds that this imminent threat constitutes temporary emergency conditions that may endanger the health, safety, welfare, and resources of residents of the coastal zone as well as the general population of the State of South Carolina. Accordingly, the Department, pursuant to the authority of S.C. Code Ann. §48-39-130(D)(1), hereby issues an Emergency Order to allow the owners of front beach properties in Georgetown and Horry Counties, whose lands and buildings abut the Atlantic Ocean, to return sand that has washed onto highland back onto the beach, in those areas of the beach impacted by Hurricane Ian. The local government with jurisdiction over the site must be notified of the activity.

This Emergency Order, 22-EO-HI4, will expire on October 31, 2022 (30 days from the date of this Order). Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §48-39-130(D)(1), property owners may request an individual emergency order from the Department if an emergency persists.

Specifically, all work must conform to the following requirements:

1. Sand returned to the beach cannot cover or bury any portion of an erosion control structure.
2. Sea turtle nesting season officially extends from May 15 to October 31. Anyone working on the beach under this order is advised to exercise extreme care to ensure there are no impacts to this endangered species.
3. The contractors performing work under this Emergency Order shall be in direct contact with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Marine Turtle Conservation Program (MTCP) representative. Daily, early surveys of the beach are performed to document turtle nesting activity and MTCP representative shall be consulted each morning prior to any work being performed on the beach. In the event a nest is disturbed during construction and/or sea turtle adult is encountered, all work should cease and the DNR MTCP should be contacted immediately. The MTCP contact is Michelle Pate who can be reached at 843-953-9052 (office) or PateS@dnr.sc.gov.

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SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

Date