



Bald Head Association ~ “The voice for BHI property owners”

910-457-4676 • 111 Lighthouse Wynd, Bald Head Island • www.BaldHeadAssociation.com

Who Do I Call?

For Emergencies and When You Need an Emergency Responder on the Scene on BHI — Call 911

If you need an emergency responder on the scene on BHI, call 911. This includes some unique situations on BHI that might be considered non-emergencies, but because of their effects, you call 911 if you're on BHI. If you see anyone feeding or harassing an alligator, sea turtles or any wildlife **ANYWHERE on BHI, call 911**. If you see someone fishing in a lagoon/pond **ANYWHERE on BHI, call 911**. Tell the 911 operator that you are on Bald Head Island and if the situation is an emergency or a non-emergency.

Fishing in lagoons/ponds and feeding or harassing wildlife are all actions that create a potentially hazardous situation for everyone on BHI, not to mention that they are unlawful. Harassing an alligator or other wildlife carries a \$500 fine. Actions such as illegally fishing and harassing teach aggressive behavior to alligators. Spread the word! If everyone helps to prevent these situations, that impacts everyone on BHI, including humans, alligators and wildlife.

Though many of us have been trained to only call 911 for medical, fire and police emergencies, BHI is unique. You are urged to call 911 to report anyone feeding or harassing an alligator/wildlife anywhere on BHI as well as to report anyone fishing in a lagoon/pond anywhere on BHI and if you see an underaged person driving a golf cart (get the cart number). Calling 911 creates a logged call with a report, from which Public Safety can track and gain a better understanding of call types/frequencies/timing as well as use for training.

Calling 911 Logs the Call for Important Reasons

We've all been taught to call 911 only in an emergency. While that still applies, on Bald Head Island, there are additional situations where a call to 911 is important for a variety of reasons. First, what situations warrant a 911 call on BHI? Here are some examples:

- Underaged driver (a total of 25 citations for underaged driving were issued in 2018)
- Reckless driving
- Illegal fishing in **ANY** lagoon/pond on BHI
- Incessant dog barking, particularly at night
- Not following the “No Wake Zone” in BHI Creek

For situations such as these, you are urged to call 911 — tell the dispatch operator that you are on Bald Head Island. If it is a non-emergency call such as one the examples above, tell the operator that this is a non-emergency call. The Public Safety Department will be notified and dispatched. It is recommended that you **DO NOT** engage with any subjects yourself. Public Safety officers are professionally trained to handle all situations — you are not.

As a barrier island, Bald Head Island presents unique situations. Calling 911 for urgent but not emergency situations is one of them.

Here are some reasons why it's important to have urgent situation calls logged:

- The Public Safety Department can track and learn from response times.
- There is a record of the event.
- The Public Safety Department can learn and track how each situation was resolved.
- The Public Safety Department can determine current and future staffing needs required, based on call history.

It is important to stress that for urgent and emergency calls, do not call the Public Safety office — call 911. And do not call Village Hall with any emergencies — call 911.