

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission recommends people follow these guidelines for sea turtle safety:

- **DO** turn off or adjust lighting along the beachfront to prevent nesting sea turtles from becoming disoriented and moving toward the glow of light on land, instead of natural light reflecting on the surface of the water. Indoor lights should be turned off, with curtains closed after dark, and outdoor lighting should use turtle-friendly bulbs. Use fixtures low to the ground and shielded from view at the shoreline.
- **DON'T use flashlights** or camera flashes on the beach at night. They can distract nesting sea turtles and cause them to return to the water.
- **DO** clear the way at the end of the day. Nesting female sea turtles can become trapped, confused or impeded by gear left on the beach at night. Remove items such as boats, tents, rafts and beach furniture and fill in holes or level sand castles before dusk. Holes trap turtles and can injure people.

Report sick, injured, entangled or dead sea turtles to the FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline, at 1-888-404-3922, #FWC or \*FWC on a cellphone or text Tip@MyFWC.

For more information on island nesting, contact Suzi Fox@gmail.com or 941-778-5638.