Nuisance Alligator Information

1. **Daniel Island POA maintained/owned properties and trails**

    If there is an emergency or non-emergency situation on POA property (emergency being defined as an immediate situation that could be harmful to humans and pets, on or approaching major highway, schoolyard, in a situation the gator cannot get out without help, or similar) one should call Chris Hamil, Field Operations Manager at 843-696-4676.

2. **Resident Owned Property**

    If there is an emergency situation on ones property (emergency being defined as an immediate situation that could be harmful to humans and pets, on or approaching major highway, schoolyard, in a situation the gator cannot get out without help, or similar) one should call 1-800-922-5431. This number goes to the SCDNR Radio Room, or dispatch office. If the radio room attendant determines that the issue is indeed an emergency according to their internal protocol, SCDNR will dispatch an alligator removal agent to remove the alligator using a SCDNR emergency permit and tag. Under certain circumstances, occasionally, a SCDNR law enforcement agent may respond for safety assistance, but they will not remove the alligator. The dispatch office determines if law enforcement response is necessary. If the alligator situation is not an emergency but the alligator still needs to be removed, residents should call the nuisance alligator office at 843-953-9856 to file an alligator complaint and request a removal permit.

3. **City Property - streets, roads, sidewalks, parks**

    If there is an emergency situation on city property (emergency being defined as an immediate situation that could be harmful to humans and pets, on or approaching major highway, schoolyard, in a situation the gator cannot get out without help, or similar) one should call 911. If it is a non - emergency situation, call 843-743-7200. This number goes to the Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch office.

4. **Berkeley County Property - school, library, etc.**

    If there is an emergency situation on county property (emergency being defined as an immediate situation that could be harmful to humans and pets, on or approaching major highway, schoolyard, in a situation the gator cannot get out without help, or similar) one should call 911. If it is a non - emergency situation, call 843-719-4465.

FAQs Regarding Alligators and Public Safety

Alligators are incredibly adaptable animals and have existed for millions of years. Remember, it is against the law to feed or otherwise harass alligators. This includes activities, such as throwing sticks or rocks. When people feed alligators, they will begin to associate people with food, creating a very dangerous situation. These animals often have to be destroyed due to this human intervention.

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Q: What is a nuisance alligator?

A: A nuisance alligator is an individual alligator that has become a significant public safety risk. This typically occurs when an alligator has been fed and has lost its inherent fear of people.

Q: What happens when the POA gets a call about an alligator sighting?

A: The Daniel Island POA calls their alligator consultant who is a 25 year alligator specialist and former South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Reserve Officer. Based on SCDNR's and the National Wildlife Control Training Program, the alligator specialist evaluates and tests the alligator. During the evaluation process, the specialist will go through a series of tests to see if the alligator is threatening/aggressive.

Q: What happens after the evaluation?

A: If the specialist deems the alligator non-threatening, the alligator is left alone. If the specialist deems the alligator threatening, the alligator will be properly removed according to SCDNR's rules and regulations. Not all alligators have to be removed.

Q: Why do you have to remove an aggressive/threatening alligator?

A: The POA follows Federal and State guidelines for the removal of tested, aggressive alligators for public safety.

Q: How many alligators are tested and removed on Daniel Island?

A: In 2016, there were 14 alligators tested and 4 were removed.

Q: What can you do as a resident to help?

A: It is critical that people do not feed or taunt alligators so that we may co-exist with native wildlife and meet our public safety needs. Please pass the message on to others and to children to not throw anything at the alligators nor feed the alligators at any time. Feeding or harassing alligators is illegal under South Carolina State Law. When feeding the alligators or throwing items at them which simulates feeding, the alligator will associate humans with food and will no longer have a natural fear of humans.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding an alligator in a pond/lake near you, please call our office at (843) 971-9200.