

Emerald Isle Vacation Rental Management Companies Announce Mandatory Deck Inspections Program



In an effort to promote visitor safety, the 7 vacation rental management companies, in partnership with the Town of Emerald Isle, have initiated a new mandatory deck inspections program for the more than 1,500 vacation rental units managed by these companies in Emerald Isle.

Effective October 1, 2015, all single family and duplex vacation rental units managed by these companies are required to be inspected at least once annually by EITHER a licensed North Carolina general contractor OR a licensed North Carolina professional engineer for identification of any safety / structural concerns. It is anticipated that inspections and repairs will be complete by March 1, 2016. Vacation rental unit owners will then be required to complete necessary safety / structural repairs identified during the annual inspection, and failure to complete the necessary safety / structural repairs will result in the vacation rental unit being suspended from the vacation rental companies' management programs until the repairs are complete. **Angelfish Properties, Bluewater Real Estate, CENTURY 21 Coastland Realty, Emerald Isle Realty, Shorewood Real Estate, Spinnakers Reach Realty, and Sun-Surf Realty** all place the highest priority on our visitors' safety, and have enthusiastically committed to this new program.

The Town of Emerald Isle will assist the vacation rental management companies in this effort by inspecting serious deficiencies reported to the vacation rental unit owner but not yet repaired. Under NC law, the Town's inspectors (contracted through Carteret County) are authorized to inspect existing decks upon receipt of a complaint, and the 7 vacation rental management companies will continue to work closely with the Town by reporting such deficiencies. Town inspectors will determine if the vacation rental unit's decks are safe for human occupancy, and any unsafe decks will be posted accordingly and may not be utilized until corrective action is taken.

All 7 of the vacation rental management companies and the Town of Emerald Isle pride ourselves on our family beach image and small-town atmosphere, and remain committed to providing the highest quality, safest beach vacation experience for our visitors. The 7 companies and the Town have been working hard since two unfortunate deck collapse incidents this past summer to promote deck safety, including numerous inspections, repairs, educational initiatives, and more. The new mandatory deck inspections program represents a more formal concerted effort to promote the safety of our visitors.

While all of us in Emerald Isle are working hard to promote deck safety, we also remind our visitors to be mindful of the number of guests occupying a deck structure. Lifelong family and group memories are made every day in Emerald Isle, and we encourage everyone to document these memories with safety in mind!

