

LIGHTS OUT!

IT IS SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON!

May 1st through October 31st

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO KEEP THE BEACH DARK:

- ◆ **DO NOT USE** flashlights, flash photography, and lanterns on the beach (including CELL PHONE flashlights)
- ◆ Close blinds and drapes in beachfront rooms at night
- ◆ Turn off all unnecessary lights (i.e. landscape, decorative, & accent lights)
- ◆ Keep lights low, shielded, and use long wavelength lamps (Amber LEDs)
- ◆ Move light sources away from windows
- ◆ Take back what you bring: chairs, umbrellas, coolers, trash, etc.
- ◆ Fill in holes made on the beach
- ◆ Do not trim beach vegetation
- ◆ Do not approach or touch nesting turtles or hatchlings
- ◆ Do not disturb nests, markers, signs, or tracks

Female sea turtles and hatchlings find the water by going toward the light reflected off of the Gulf. In the presence of brighter artificial light such as street lights, parking lot lights, balcony/porch lights, exterior and landscape lights, and interior resident lights the turtles become disoriented and crawl away from the Gulf and towards dangerous areas such as parking lots and nearby roadways. Remember, these lights are responsible for the deaths of many sea turtles each year. Please help them by remembering to close blinds, shield/move lights, or turn them off. If you have any questions, please call the Natural Resources Division at (239) 213-5000.

Thank you.

Without your help they will not survive!

