

REPORT BEACH DRIVING! WALK IT, DON'T DRIVE IT!

Did you know that it's against the law to drive on the beach? CNMI law prohibits driving vehicles on the beach, but too many individuals are not aware of this law, including our tourists. The Division of Coastal Resources Management Office is mandated to provide public access to shorelines while ensuring that the natural resources are protected and managed in a sustainable manner. Our agency works with Department of Public Safety to ensure that this activity does not take place or is reprimanded appropriately. Tourists and locals alike can receive fines of up to \$10,000 per incident.

In recent years, Saipan's beaches have become progressively more impacted due to increased beach driving activities. These impacts include:

- **destroying native vegetation**
- **sand compaction**
- **petroleum-based pollutants entering the near shore environment,**
- **beach erosion**
- **detering normal turtle nesting behavior, and destroying turtle nests**

Help protect baby sea turtles!

Beach driving either at night or during the daytime, can negatively impact sea turtles. Night time driving can disturb nesting females, disorient emerging hatchlings, and crush hatchlings attempting to reach the ocean. Tire ruts left by vehicles can extend the time it takes a hatchling to reach the ocean and increase their chance of being caught by a predator. Driving during the day can cause sand compaction above nests resulting in lower nest success.

See a problem on the coast?

Download the "Reef Report" app on your smartphone and also online at <http://arcg.is/IrijG12> or please call 664-8300 or 783-2926 to report beach driving and other violations.

