

LAVA GATORS™

FLORIDA EVERGLADES · CLASSIFIED ZONE

"When the swamp boils, the hunt begins."

HOW TO PLAY

THE MISSION

You are one operative in a team of specialists — wranglers, scientists, deputies, and a wildcard politician — trying to survive the Florida Everglades while a mutant Lava Gator hunts you across 7 story levels.

The gator isn't just big. It learns. It adapts. It watches you dodge and figures out your patterns. Keep it guessing.

CONTROLS

Movement

A / ←	Move left
D / →	Move right
W / ↑	Jump
S / ↓	Crouch (shrinks your hitbox — use this a lot)
C / Ctrl	Dodge roll (brief invincibility — see note below)

Combat

F / Shift	Shoot
Space	Use special ability (each character has a unique one)
E / Q	Interact with objects in the environment (barrels, crates, ropes, boats)

⚠ Dodge rolls make you briefly invincible — but the gator tracks which direction you keep rolling. Mix it up or it will adapt to your favorite dodge and stop flinching.

YOUR TEAM

Pick your operative at the start of each level. You play that character all the way through — no switching mid-run.

OPERATIVE	ROLE	HP	SPEED	WEAPON	SPECIAL ABILITY
REGGIE	The Wrangler	280	4.8	Shotgun	RAGE — 3 seconds of invincibility + double damage
TONI	The Scientist	130	4.2	Trap gun	LURE — slows every enemy on screen for 4 seconds
SIERRA	The Deputy	160	5.5	Rifle	PERIMETER LOCK — zones the gator, slowing its movement
MAYOR BIXBY	The Wildcard	200	3.8	Briefcase	BRIBE — resets the gator back to Stalk mode
ELI	The Kid	110	7.2	Dad's shotgun	AIRBOAT BOOST — speed burst + ram damage (unlocks Level 3)
HOLT	Delta Force	220	5.0	M4 rifle	AIRSTRIKE — sky bombardment, long cooldown (unlocks Level 4)

⚠ *Eli is fast but fragile — great if you like to dodge rather than tank hits. Holt's gear degrades as the levels get harder, so his airstrike goes offline by the finale.*

⚠ *Mayor Bixby does not survive Level 5. His card will still be visible, but trust the flavor text.*

⚠ *Level 7 is Reggie only. No exceptions. That's the story.*

THE LAVA GATOR

The gator cycles through three phases and you can see which one you're in at the top of the screen:

STALK	Circling, watching, sizing you up. Buy time and reload.
CHARGE	It's coming straight at you. Dodge, jump, or crouch — pick one and commit.
FRENZY	All bets are off. The screen border turns red and pulses. This is the danger zone.

The gator also gains HP and gets more aggressive each level — same animal, worse mood.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Don't ignore the stuff on the ground. Scattered across each level are objects you can interact with by pressing E or Q when you're close:

Barrels	Throw them at the gator for a big chunk of damage.
Burning barrels	Same as above — also good for area denial.
Crates	Throwable. Less damage than a barrel but they're everywhere.
Ropes	Interact to swing or trip up enemies.
Boat	Swamp levels. Useful for repositioning fast.

AMMO AND RELOADING

Every character has limited ammo shown as dots in the top-left HUD. When you empty your magazine a reload bar appears over your character's head — you are completely vulnerable during this time.

Each character has a different magazine size and reload speed. Toni and Bixby reload slowly. Holt is the fastest. Plan ahead.

UNLOCKING NEW CHARACTERS

The character select screen shows all six operatives, but Eli and Holt start locked. Survive long enough in the story and they open up automatically — you will see them go from greyed-out to selectable at the start of the next level.

You pick your character fresh at the beginning of every level, so even if you always played Reggie you can switch to Eli the moment he unlocks.

TIPS FOR STAYING ALIVE

Crouch constantly. It shrinks your hitbox more than you'd expect.

Never dodge the same direction three times in a row. The gator literally adapts.

Check the top-center phase indicator. If it turns red, that's FRENZY — create distance immediately.

Reload before you enter a Charge phase, not during it.

Toss a barrel at the gator first thing in each level — free damage while it's still in Stalk.

The bunny. There's a stuffed rabbit somewhere in every level. You don't have to do anything with it. It just watches.

SURVIVAL MODE

Beat the main story and you'll find your way to Survival Mode — Reggie's Last Stand. Endless waves, no checkpoints, gator keeps coming. See how many waves you can hold.