

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: GSAF 1995.01.24

DATE: Tuesday January 24, 1995

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Indian Ocean at Tiger Rocks, Isipingo Beach, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The beach is located 18 kilometres [11 miles] south of the entrance to Durban Harbour.
30°00'S, 30°57'E



NAME: Mthokozisi Cedrick Mpanza

DESCRIPTION: The swimmer, a 14-year-old student, was 1,72 metres tall and weighed 61 kilograms. He was a trainee lifesaver (Junior Lifesaver) with the Tiger Rocks Surf Lifesaving Club.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: There was a light 15-knot northeasterly breeze.

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, January 24, 1995

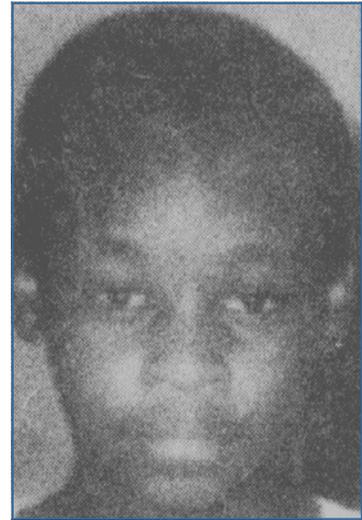
ENVIRONMENT: The beach has no shark nets.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 metres [109.4 yards]

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: Three metres [10 feet]

TIME: 16h30

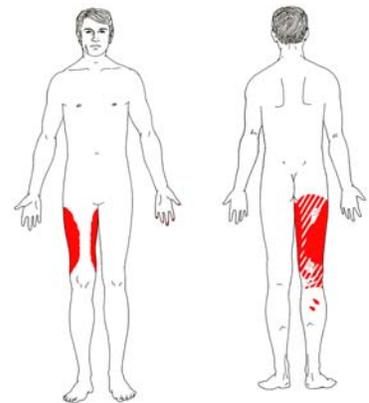
NARRATIVE: Mpanza was taking part in a training exercise with seven other members of his team. Two of the team, acting as markers, were positioned 100 metres offshore with paddleboards. The other lifesavers were to swim to the first marker, then swim across to the second marker, and then return to shore. Mpanza was the first lifesaver to start swimming the circuit. He was swimming toward the second marker when he was dragged underwater by the shark. Naheen Ebrahim was slightly shoreward of Mpanza. "Suddenly he screamed, and when I turned, I saw a fin above the waves and saw him struggling," said Naheen. Lifeguard Ashraf Shaik and other lifesavers pulled Mpanza from the water.



Mthokozisi Cedrick Mpanza

INJURY: Fatal. Tissue was removed from the posterior right thigh down to the femur (which has two sets of parallel teeth marks, 185 mm apart) and there are shallow lacerations on the back of the left thigh and right calf. His femur was fractured and his right femoral artery was severed. The tips of all fingers of the left hand were irregularly and shallowly lacerated (defense wounds). Death resulted from exsanguination.

FIRST AID: Lifesavers immediately initiated CPR, and paramedics arrived on the scene eight minutes later. Paramedics attempted to resuscitate the teen for nearly 60 minutes, but he was pronounced dead on the beach.



SPECIES INVOLVED: It is thought that a tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvier*, about 1,8 metres in length was involved in this attack.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Andrew Gifford, Shark Research Institute-South Africa