

ACTIVITY: Wading

CASE: **GSAF 2007.09.08**

DATE: Saturday September 8, 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Pepper Park Beach, St. Lucie County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Carolyn Griffin

DESCRIPTION: She is a 58-year-old female from Port St. Lucie.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 11h53, Fort Pierce recorded mostly cloudy skies and visibility of 10 miles. The air temperature was 86°F [30°C], dew point 73°F [22.8°C], humidity 65%, sea level pressure 29.99 in [1015.6 hPa], and wind direction was East at 9.2 mph [14.8 km/h].

MOON PHASE: New Moon, September 11, 2007.

ENVIRONMENT: Pepper Park Beach is located on A1A on the North side of Fort Pierce Inlet. It is St. Lucie County's most-used and largest public beach access, stretching over a mile in length.

DEPTH OF WATER: Three feet

TIME: 11h45

NARRATIVE: Griffin had just waded into the water when she felt a bump on her leg. She thought it was caused by a stray boogie board, but then she spotted a three-foot-long shark swimming away. "Something punched the side of my leg really hard," Griffin said. "When I looked down, I saw the fin." She said she did not feel sharp pain until the saltwater seeped into the wound.

INJURY: The injury is minor. It consists of 12 small puncture wounds to her shin and a two-inch laceration to her calf. "It could have been a lot of worse if the shark had closed its mouth," said Griffin.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: She went to the lifeguard who wrapped her wound. She was taken by ambulance to Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and Heart Institute in Fort Pierce where the laceration was closed with six staples.

SPECIES: Not identified. According to Griffin the shark was about three feet in length.

SOURCES: T.C. Palm, September 11, 2007

First Coast News, September 11, 2007

Paul Quinlan, The Palm Beach Post, September 11, 2007



Fort Pierce Inlet

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