

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2007.11.04](#)

DATE: Sunday November 4, 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Round Island Park near the southern end of Indian River County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Jeffrey Nolan

DESCRIPTION: He is a 42-year-old male who began surfing three years ago.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 08h53, Vero Beach recorded clear skies and visibility of 9 miles [14.5 km]. The air temperature was 66°F [18.9°C], dew point 57.9°F [14.4°C], humidity 75%, sea level pressure 30.11 inches [1019.4 hPa], and wind direction was WNW at 4.6 mph [7.4 km/h].

MOON PHASE: New Moon, November 9, 2007

ENVIRONMENT: Round Island Park, a newly-reburbed ocean-riverfront park is located south of Vero Beach on A1A South just north of the county line.

TIME: 09h00

NARRATIVE: Jeffrey Nolan was surfing alone. "I was lying on my board on my stomach," he said. Then he lifted his leg, felt the leash strangely tight as if it was snagged on something, and thought it was caught on the board. "But it was actually caught on the shark," said Nolan. "I think that aggravated [the shark]. I saw a splash to my right and felt something grab my leg. I turned my head and saw [the shark] slip right back into the water." Nolan said he felt no pain. "I think my endorphins set in," he said, adding he caught the next wave and rode it inshore.

"Sharks are great creatures," Nolan said. "But you definitely have to be careful when you're in their territory." He just won't be going surfing alone anymore, he said. It's one of his rules, he said, and he plans to stick by it.

INJURY: Lacerations to right leg just above the knee.

FIRST AID: Nolan said a "phenomenal" group of lifeguards helped with first-aid and stopped the bleeding until his family could take him to Indian River Medical Center's emergency room.

TREATMENT: Seven staples were needed to close the wound, one above his right kneecap and six in back.

SPECIES: He didn't see what kind of shark it was and said authorities haven't identified it, other than estimating it was five feet in length.

SOURCES: Nadia Vanderhoof, Sunday, November 4, 2007, Henry A. Stephens, TC Palm, November 5, 2007, <http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2007/nov/05/surfer-bitten-shark-talks-about-attack/>

