

**ACTIVITY:** Diving

**CASE:** [GSAF 2008.10.22](#)

**DATE:** Wednesday, October 22, 2008

**LOCATION:** The incident took place at Oceanworld in Manly, a suburb north of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

**NAME:** Steve Cloke

**DESCRIPTION:** A 34-year-old male, a tourist from Bristol, England.

### **BACKGROUND**

**ENVIRONMENT:** Oceanworld Manly offers a program known as Shark Dive Extreme in which visitors dive in the oceanarium for 30 minutes with grey nurse sharks for a cost between \$185 and \$250. An estimated 3,000 people dive with sharks at the oceanarium each year

**TIME:** 17h20

**NARRATIVE:** Cloke was one of five divers and an instructor in the shark tank when sudden power blackout apparently confused the shark and it grazed the top of Cloke's head. "I was in there for five minutes when I felt this almighty wallop on the top of my head," he said. "Then I saw a bit of blood in the water. I got a few cuts and scratches. I had a hood on as well, so that saved me quite a lot."

**INJURY:** The diver sustained a small laceration to the top of his head.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** Paramedics were called to the tourist spot after initial reports of a possible shark attack. The injury was considered minor and did not require transport to hospital. "Staff followed all protocols and discontinued the dive immediately and everyone was healthy and happy," said Sydney Attractions Group CEO Kevin Bush, who added that this was the first injury suffered in about 20,000 dives at Oceanworld.

**SPECIES:** A three-metre grey nurse shark named Palace.

**NOTE:** This is considered a provoked incident because it involved a captive shark.

**SOURCE:** Daily Telegraph, October 22, 2008

<http://www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/story/0,22049,24536269-5006009,00.html>



*Steve Clote and his wife, Fiona, at Oceanworld*



