

ACTIVITY: Treading water

CASE: GSAF 2012.07.30

DATE: Monday July 30, 2012

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Ballston Beach in Truro, which is located on Cape Cod, Barnstable County, Massachusetts, USA.

NAME: Chris Myers

DESCRIPTION: He is a 50-year-old male from Denver.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 15h35, Truro recorded clear skies and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 77°F, dewpoint 64.4°F, humidity 65%, sea level pressure 30.12 inches (falling) and wind direction was SSE at 8.1mph.

MOON PHASE: Waxing Gibbous, 92% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, August 1, 2012.

ENVIRONMENT: Sightings of white sharks are not unusual due to the growing seal population off the coast of Chatham. In recent years sighting of sharks have been reported sightings in recent years also have been reported at Truro and other lower and outer Cape beaches. The accident took place in a channel between shore and a sandbar.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 400 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: 15 feet

TIME: 15h30

NARRATIVE: Chris Myers and his 16-year-old son, J.J. Myers, had been swimming towards a sandbar when they stopped in a channel and began treading water. The two were five feet apart when a shark grabbed Chris' lower legs and he was momentarily pulled below the surface. With the shark still gripping his left ankle, he managed to free his right foot and kicked three or four times at the shark, his heel hitting the shark's snout and teeth. The shark released its grip and surfaced. Eyewitnesses on the beach reported that "a very large black dorsal fin," broke the surface between the man and his son. The shark disappeared, and made no further attempts to bite Chris as he and his son swam to shore.

INJURY: Chris sustained lacerations to both lower legs.



FIRST AID / TREATMENT: When Chris and JJ reached shore, bystanders walked them 10 or 20 feet onto the flat sand. Chris was put in a prone position with towels placed below his wounds. A surgeon and two nurses were on the beach and provided immediate first aid while JJ comforted his father. The surgeon placed Chris' legs on his lap while the nurses applied direct pressure to control blood loss. Truro Fire Rescue arrived and Chris was transported by ambulance to Cape Cod Hospital in Hyannis, then transferred to Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston where he underwent surgery.

SPECIES: Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries Biologist Greg Skomal examined Chris' wounds and hypothesized that his injuries were probably caused by a white shark. When injury photos arrive Ralph Collier will be able confirm the causal species and determine its size.

SOURCE: MassLive.com, July 31, 2012
http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/07/officials_probing_possible_sha.html
et al

NOTE: Joe Romeiro, a shark expert and award-winning filmmaker, was in the vicinity in mid-August and hoped to interview Chris for inclusion of his story in a documentary film, but the two were unable to meet before Chris returned home.



JJ Myers, in plaid trunks, looks on as paramedics tend to his father, Chris, Ballston Beach.