

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2013.02.10

DATE: Sunday February 10, 2013

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at the "Stuart Rocks" break in Martin County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Cole Taschman

DESCRIPTION: He is a 16-year-old male. He is a student at Jensen Beach High School and surfs for the Stuart-based Ohana Surf Shop team.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 13h47, Stuart recorded 10-mile visibility and mostly cloudy skies. The air temperature was 75.2°F, dew point 55.4°F, humidity 50%, sea level pressure 30.25 inches and wind direction was East at 16.1 mph with gusts to 24.2 mph.

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 0% of the Moon was illuminated. It was a New Moon.

DEPTH OF WATER: Waist-deep

TIME: 14h00

NARRATIVE: Cole Taschman was in the water to take pictures for a fundraiser for an injured friend — Brooke Thabit, another Jensen Beach High School student and Ohana Surf Shop surfer who broke her neck in an accident last fall. He was wearing a T-shirt to promote her cause.

“We were trying to take pictures to raise some money for her,” Taschman said. “I was about waist-deep in the water getting ready to go out surfing. All of a sudden, it felt like you got hit playing football or something. I looked at my hand to make sure that everything was intact still.” Taschman said he struck the shark with his surfboard to prevent it from biting him again, then ran out of the water to seek help.

INJURY: Lacerations to right hand.

TREATMENT: The teen was transported by ambulance to Martin Medical Center North in Stuart where his injury was sutured and he was released. “I’ve got a hard cast around my wrist,” Taschman said Monday evening. “I have 12 stitches in me ... and a good story I can tell for college.”

SPECIES: The incident is thought to involve a blacktip shark, four to five feet in length.

SOURCE: Palm Beach Post, February 12, 2013,
<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/news/local/jensen-beach-surfer-gets-12-stitches-after-shark-b/nWMGm/>