

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 2013.05.04

**DATE:** Saturday May 4, 2013

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean near the 9300 block of State Road A1A in Melbourne Beach, Brevard County, Florida, USA.

**NAME:** Michael Adler

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 16-year-old male from Fort Lauderdale.



### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** At 10h53, Melbourne recorded 10-mile visibility and overcast skies. The air temperature was 75°F, dew point 66°F, humidity 73%, sea level pressure 29.75 inches and wind direction was WSW at 11.5 mph.

**MOON PHASE:** Waning Crescent, 27% of the Moon is illuminated. New Moon, May 9, 2013.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The sea was murky after recent storms.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Over the previous few weeks the surf report of the *Brevard Times* reported that small sharks were spotted chasing bait fish into the shallows. "We see sharks all the time and usually they never harm you, so this is pretty weird," said Adler.

**TIME:** 11h00

**NARRATIVE:** Michael Adler was surfing with three friends. He was just catching a last wave when he climbed back up on his board and felt something. "As soon as I got back on the board I felt like this hold...he gave me a little shake and let me go," he said. "Right then I knew it was a shark." Adler paddled quickly to shore and tried to flag down a friend.

**INJURY:** Four tendons of his left foot were damaged.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** When Adler reached the shore, other surfers and beachgoers assisted him. His foot was elevated and a tourniquet applied to stop the bleeding. "I wasn't in that much pain at all. I thought it was pretty cool that I just got bit by a shark because it hasn't really happened to too many people," said Adler. Paramedics transported him to Holmes Regional Medical Center. "We knew it was a shark," said Dr. Mark Munro. "We see a lot of propeller injuries and fish hook injuries, but this is my first shark injury." The surgeon said the teen's foot had at least 20 teeth marks. It was expected he would be released from the hospital on Monday. The teen says it's just all in a day in the surf and plans to get back out as soon as he can.

**SPECIES:** Not identified, but the toothmarks suggest the injury was caused by a small shark.

**SOURCES:** ABC News, May 5, 2013, <http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2013/05/teen-surfer-recovering-after-shark-attack/>

Miami Herald, February 11, 2015, <http://www.miamiherald.com/sports/high-school/>