



ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: [GSAF 2015.10.17.a](#)

DATE: Saturday October 17, 2015

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean off Lanikai Beach, Kailua, Oahu, Hawaii, USA.

Approximately 21°23'01.71"N, 157°42'31.81"W

NAME: Tony Lee

DESCRIPTION: A 44-year-old male.



Tony Lee

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The Air temperature at Kailua was 81 °F with light (5 mph) ENE winds.

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 21% of the Moon was illuminated. First Quarter, October 20, 2015.

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea surface temperature was 81 °F, and waves were three to four feet in height, and the water was turbid. Mean low tide at Kailua occurred at 13h04.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 to 100 yards.

TIME: 11h30

NARRATIVE: Tony Lee was swimming with Mazan Abbas to shore from the Mokolua Islands when he was bitten by a shark. “Just out of nowhere, I felt a yank on my legs and that was surprising. And I looked back, and that’s when I saw the shark, and I couldn’t believe it,” said Lee. “He was a big guy and he had both my legs in his mouth. I had goggles on, so I could see things really clearly and I kept thinking that if I just kept punching him, he would let me go,” said Lee. He punched and kicked the shark. “He pulled me down one last time, so I just reached out and put my finger in his eye and pulled out his eyeball. And so he let go. So I got to the surface. I was holding his eyeball. So I let it go and was treading water.”

Treading water and bleeding profusely, he screamed to Abbas who was 50 yards away.

Meanwhile, Julian Liverton and his 13-year-old son, Charlie, were paddling back to shore from the Mokulua Islands in separate one-man outrigger canoes when they heard someone yell for help. They saw the swimmers but were unaware one of them had been bitten by a shark. The father and son each took a man on board and paddled as fast as possible to shore. Witnesses on the beach reported that they heard someone in the water shouting "911" and waving a paddle. They called the police and helped carry the injured man to the beach.



Tony Lee being brought to shore on Charlie Liverton's canoe



After the incident, lifeguards sped through the waters on Jet Skis and urged visitors to clear out of the ocean, and authorities closed a stretch of shore from Kailua Beach to Bellows Field Beach Park.

INJURY: Lee sustained extensive injuries to both feet and defense wounds to his hands which he sustained while punching the shark. His foot was subsequently surgically amputated due to extensive injuries and tissue loss.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: As soon as the patient was taken on board his canoe Charlie Liverton used his rash guard as a tourniquet stem the patient's loss of blood. Honolulu fire personnel arrived at 11h40, treated the patient at 1502 Mokulua Drive, then transferred patient care to EMS at 11h51. The patient was then transported to the hospital in serious condition. Lee lost the right foot, as of October 22, 2015, surgeons were trying to save the left foot.

SPECIES: Liverton believes the incident involved an eight- to nine-foot tiger shark, that he saw swim under his canoe.

SOURCES: Hawaii News Now, October 17, 2015

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/30286930/swimmer-injured-inapparent-shark-attack-off-lanikaibeach>

KHON2, October 17, 2015

<http://khon2.com/2015/10/17/shark-attack-off-lanikai-beach-leaves-swimmer-with-serious-leg-injuries/>

CNN, October 18, 2015

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/10/18/us/hawaii-shark-attacks/index.html>

KITV, October 19, 2015

<http://www.kitv.com/news/lanikai-shark-attack-victims-friend-speaks-out/35934040>

KHON2, October 19, 2015

<http://khon2.com/2015/10/19/teen-helped-father-rescue-men-after-lanikai-shark-attack/>

Hawaii News Now, October 19, 2015

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/30301623/8th-grader-and-father-rescue-man-attacked-by-shark-off-lanikai-beach>

KITV.com, October 21, 2015

<http://www.kitv.com/news/exclusive-lanikai-shark-attack-victim-speaks-out/35974554>

Kevin McMurray, TrackingSharks.com
et al

