

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 1981.08.29](#)

DATE: Saturday August 29, 1981

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean south of New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Stephen Drosdick

DESCRIPTION: He is a 15-year-old male from Winter Park.

ENVIRONMENT: At the time of the incident a lifeguard spotted a shark, stood up and used a whistle to bring the bathers in.

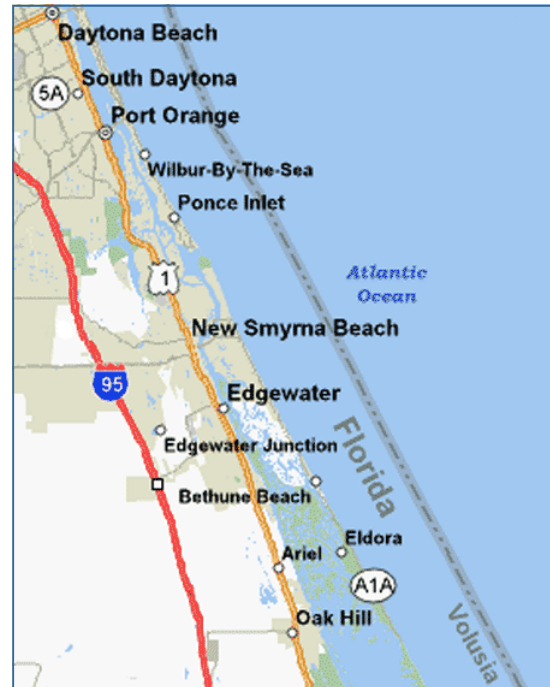
NARRATIVE: As Drosdick was heading toward shore, he fell off his board. "I was coming back up [to the surface] and he got me," said the teen. "I didn't think it was a shark bite, but I started looking back and I saw I was trailing blood. After it bit me there were sharks swimming around."

INJURY: Drosdick sustained a six-inch laceration to his left ankle, damaging tendons in his leg.

TREATMENT: According to his doctors, the teen would be hospitalized through the weekend.

SPECIES: Not identified

SOURCES: The Mount Airy News, Monday August 31, 1981, page 2A; Pacific Stars and Stripes (Tokyo, Japan), Monday August 31, 1981



Shark

Boy, 15, survives attack while surfing

NEW SMYRNA BEACH, Fla. (UPI) — A shark attacked a 15-year-old surfer, slashing his left ankle and damaging the tendons in his leg, doctors said.

It was the second unprovoked shark attack in two weeks off Florida's coasts and the 10th this year.

Stephen Drosdick of Winter Park, had a gouge more than six inches long in his ankle. Doctors said he would be hospitalized through the weekend.

Drosdick said he was surfing south of New Smyrna Beach.

As he headed toward shore, he fell off his board. Before he came to the surface he said he felt something bite his foot.

"I was coming back up and he got me," he said. "I didn't think it was a shark bite, but I started looking back and saw I was trailing blood."

"After it bit me there were

sharks swimming around."

New Smyrna Beach lifeguard Capt. Ronnie Futch said "it definitely was a shark attack."

Futch said "at the time of the attack our lifeguard spotted a shark and stood up and (with a whistle) was blowing the bathers in."

Drosdick's mother, Libby said, "I just think he was in the wrong spot."

Drosdick, who hopes to compete on the swim team at Winter Park High, said he doesn't know if the attack will curtail his surfing. "I will have to decide."

Christy Wapniarski, 19, a suburban Chicagoan working as a secretary to earn college tuition, was bitten and bled to death early this month following a sailboat accident off Daytona Beach.

That was the only fatality among the attacks this year.

Florida Surfer Attacked By Shark

NEW SMYRNA BEACH, Fla. (UPI) — A shark has attacked a swimmer off Florida's coast for the third time in two weeks — the 10th attack this year.

The latest victim was surfer Stephen Drosdick, 15. The shark slashed his left ankle Friday and damaged the tendons in his leg, doctors said.

"I fell off the board. I was coming back up and he got me," Drosdick said.

"I didn't think it was a shark bite, but I started looking back and saw I was trailing blood," he said.

"There were sharks swimming all around."

Drosdick of Winter Park is spending the weekend in the hospital.

New Smyrna Beach lifeguard Capt. Ronnie Futch said, "It definitely was a shark attack. At the time of the attack, our lifeguard spotted a shark and stood up and (with a whistle) was blowing the bathers in."

Drosdick, who hopes to compete on the swim team at Winter Park High this year, said it was "hard to believe it happened to me."



Drosdick Visited By Classmates