



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 1983.11.10.R

DATE: Reported November 10, 1983

LOCATION: The accident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Melbourne, Brevard County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Michael Burns

DESCRIPTION: A 15-year-old male from Indian Harbour Beach.

NARRATIVE: Michael Burns was lying on his stomach, paddling his board when a shark grabbed his foot.

INJURY: Laceration to the left foot.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: A friend, Jason Fields, took Burns to shore, called his parents and an ambulance. The patient was taken by ambulance to Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne where his injury was repaired with 30 stitches.

SPECIES: The incident was said to involve a tiger shark.

SOURCE: St. Petersburg Times, Thursday November 10, 1983, page 32

Tiger shark injures youth

It took 30 stitches to close a gash in the foot of Michael Burns, 15, of Indian Harbour Beach after an encounter with a tiger shark near Melbourne. Michael was riding his surfboard flat on his stomach, paddling with his hands and feet, when the shark grabbed his left foot and started dragging him out to the ocean. Suddenly, the shark let go, Burns said. Jason Fields, 15, pulled his friend back to shore and called Burns' parents and an ambulance. Burns was taken to Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne for treatment.