

**ACTIVITY:** Wading

**CASE:** GSAF 1997.08.05

**DATE:** Tuesday August 5, 1997

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Gulf of Mexico off Galveston's East Beach (the southern tip of the seawall), Texas.

**NAME:** Unknown

**DESCRIPTION:** She is a 10-year-old female from Houston.

### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, August 3, 1997

**ENVIRONMENT:** On September 8, 1900, the deadliest hurricane in US history virtually destroyed Galveston. It was a Category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of 145 mph (230 km/h). At that time, the highest point in the city of Galveston was only 8.7 feet (2.7 m) above sea level. The hurricane brought with it a storm surge of over 15 feet (4.6m) which washed over the entire island. The hurricane caused great loss of life with the estimated death toll between 6,000 and 12,000 individuals. Galveston's 10-mile-long seawall was built in the early 1900s to help protect Galveston from future storm damage.

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**NARRATIVE:** No details

**INJURY:** She was bitten on her wrist and arm.

**TREATMENT:** She was taken to John Sealy Hospital where her injuries were surgically repaired.

**SPECIES:** Not identified but it was thought the shark was no more than three feet in length. Coast Guard officials speculated that the bite was a case of mistaken identity.

**SOURCE:** Mike Leggett, Austin American-Statesman, August 7, 1997, page C.8

