

ACTIVITY: Wading / Splashing

CASE: **GSAF 1999.06.09**

DATE: Wednesday June 9, 1999

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Atlantic Dunes Municipal Beach (1600 S. Ocean Blvd.) in Delray Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, USA.



NAME: Ryan Wellborn

DESCRIPTION: He is a five-year-old male from Georgia.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, June 7, 1999

ENVIRONMENT: Refuse was drifting ashore at the beach when the boy was bitten by the shark.

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: Delray Beach Fire Division Chief Russ Accardi said lifeguards had spotted sharks earlier in the day.

DEPTH OF WATER: Two feet

TIME: 16h00

NARRATIVE: Ryan was playing in the shallows when he shouted, "Get it off me!" and began hitting at his leg. His mother lifted him out of the water and took him ashore.

INJURY: The boy sustained a three-inch gash to the bone on his left calf and a bite on his left shin according to Accardi.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Lifeguards provided first aid and the boy was transported to Delray Medical Center for treatment.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Nobody saw a shark but, based on the boy's injury, it was thought the incident involved a blacktip or spinner shark. Oliver Ionesco, a 21-year-old part-time Delray Beach resident, was swimming near the boy with his friends at the time of the incident. "We heard screaming and then saw him bleeding," he said. "I think it must have been a small shark because I didn't see anything and we were in pretty shallow water."

SOURCES: The Palm Beach Post, June 10, 1999, page 1.B; Allen, page 64