

**ACTIVITY:** Wading

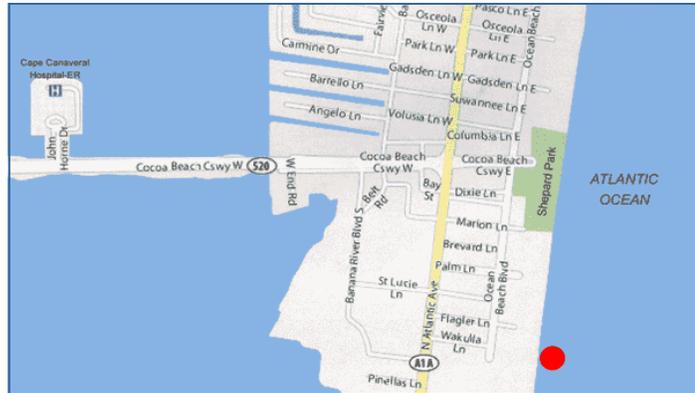
**CASE:** GSAF 2002.03.25.a

**DATE:** Monday March 25, 2002

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean south of Alan Shepard Park (east end of State Road 520), near Wakulla Lane, Cocoa Beach, Brevard County, Florida, USA.

**NAME:** Tori Lawrence

**DESCRIPTION:** She is an 11-year-old female, a tourist from Sterling, Illinois.



## BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** At 09h55, Cocoa Beach recorded partly cloudy skies and visibility of seven miles. The air temperature was 78.8°F [26°C], dew point 68°F [20°C], humidity 69%, sea level pressure 30.15 inches [1021.0 hPa], and wind direction was East at 4.6 mph [7.4 km/h].

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, March 28, 2002

**ENVIRONMENT:** Lifeguards believe that the incident is related to the change in Florida's weather. As water temperature increases, sharks often come closer to shore to feed on bait fish and sometimes mistakenly bite humans.

**DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE:** Knee-deep”

**TIME:** The report came into the Cocoa Beach Fire Department at 10h14.

**NARRATIVE:** Tori Lawrence was walking through the water when she was bitten by a small shark. “We heard screams and she was trying to crawl out of the water, and her little brother was helping her,” according to a witness, Jeanne Rhine.

**INJURY:** The girl's left foot was bitten. The injury extended from her ankle and across the toes down, and included damage to tendons. The wound was not a life-threatening injury, but it necessitated surgical repair.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** A nurse who was on the beach, Stacy Buser, provided first aid. The girl was taken by helicopter to Orlando Regional Medical Center's pediatric trauma unit, where she was reported in fair condition later that afternoon.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Not identified

**SOURCES:** Local 6 News, March 25, 2002; The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, March 26, 2002; Orlando Sentinel, March 26, 2002 edition, page B.2, et al.