

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2003.09.13.a

DATE: Saturday September 13, 2003

LOCATION: The incident took place near 30th Street and Palm Boulevard at Isle of Palms, South Carolina, USA.

NAME: Joe Davis

DESCRIPTION: The surfer is a 15-year-old Wando High School sophomore from Mount Pleasant.



BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 92% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. Full Moon September 12, 2003.

ENVIRONMENT: The Charleston County Emergency Medical Services noted that weather activity in the Atlantic may have pushed bait fish closer to shore.

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: Three feet

TIME: Early afternoon

NARRATIVE: When Joe Davis jumped off his board his left foot landed on the shark. The shark momentarily grasped his foot, then retreated into deeper water.

INJURY: The surfer sustained lacerations to the right foot.

FIRST AID: Bystanders, including a nurse, tended to the surfer's injury while waiting for paramedics. Although laughing through most of the ordeal, Davis worried that the shark had torn tendons in his foot.

TREATMENT: Only 20 sutures and a walking cast were required to keep the surfer's foot immobilized so that the wounds can heal properly.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified, but the surfer estimated that the shark was about six to seven feet in length.

NOTE: This is a provoked incident; the shark bit Davis after he stepped on it.

SOURCE: P. Caston, Post and Courier.