

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 2007.04.20

**DATE:** Friday April 20, 2007

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean near the 3600 block of South Ocean Beach Boulevard (A1A), New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

**NAME:** Chad Guthrie

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 24-year-old male, a physical therapist from New Smyrna Beach.

### BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** At 16h53, Daytona Beach recorded mostly cloudy skies, no rain, and visibility of 10 miles [16.1 km]. The air temperature was 70°F [21.1°C], dew point 57.9°F [14.4°C], humidity 65%, sea level pressure 30.00 inches [1015.7 hPa], and the wind was NNE 23 mph [37 km/h] with gusts to 31.1 mph [50 km/h]

**MOON PHASE:** First Quarter Moon, April 24, 2007

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The surf was rough and the water was murky.

**TIME:** 17h00

**NARRATIVE:** Chad Guthrie was paddling on his surfboard when he felt something grab his hand. He was able to make it back to shore where he was assisted by a lifeguard.

**INJURY:** The surfer sustained deep lacerations to his left index finger and thumb.

**FIRST AID:** The surfer was treated on the scene by lifeguards, and taken to Halifax Medical Center in Daytona by EVAC ambulance.

**TREATMENT:** The surfer spent five hours in surgery at Halifax Hospital on Friday night, and was scheduled to undergo additional surgery on Sunday morning [April 22, 2007].

**SPECIES:** The surfer did not see the shark but thought it was about four to five feet in length, and speculated that it might have been a bull shark. However, it is more likely that a blacktip or spinner shark was involved in the incident.

**SOURCE:** Florida Today, April 21, 2007

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Captain Scott Petersohn



*Chad Guthrie*