

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 2007.09.30.c

**DATE:** September 30, 2007

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at Santa Monica Beach, California, USA. Santa Monica is located 12 miles southwest of downtown Los Angeles and the beach is located where Interstate 10 and the Pacific Coast Highway intersect.

**NAME:** Andrew Sinagra

### BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** At 11h51, Santa Monica recorded clear skies and visibility of 10 miles [16.1 km]. The air temperature was 73.9°F [23.3°C], dew point 53.1°F [11.7°C], humidity 48%, sea level pressure 30.03 in [1016.7 hPa], and wind direction was WSW at 4.6 mph [ 7.4 km/h ].

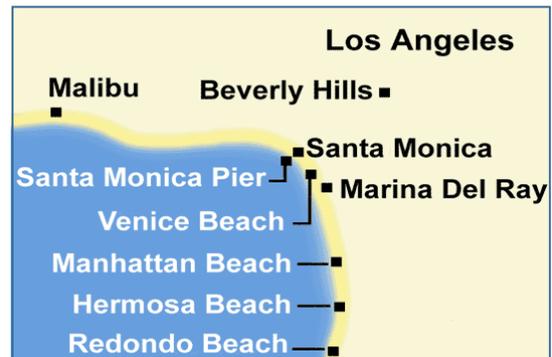
**MOON PHASE:** Last Quarter, October 3, 2007

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The sea was calm.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Small bait fish were observed swimming in the area.

**DEPTH:** Two to three feet

**TIME:** 11h30



**NARRATIVE:** Andrew Sinagra was surfing at Santa Monica Beach with an undetermined number of people, which included several friends, and had been in the water for three hours. Sinagra recalled:

“I was surfing with a group of people just off Santa Monica Beach. We had been out for a couple of hours when one of my friends saw a small shark, about two feet long, swim by him. The water was very clear so we could easily distinguish the shark. Then on my paddle out, I and the guy next to me saw a shark, about four feet long, swim right underneath us but we didn't think it would bother us. Apparently my friend Cory was bit on his way into the water as well. He saw it as it came up and bit his leg quickly and left. It did not puncture his wetsuit though, just left marks. So they got out and we were just about done as well and we caught a wave in. We surfed up to the shore and as soon as I jumped off my board I felt something like a rubber mallet hit my foot. The water was only two or three feet deep. I didn't know what it was at first. The guy that surfed the wave in with me said he saw 3 sharks follow us in on the wave and that they were swimming around us when we jumped off our boards. They were about four feet in length.”

**INJURY:** “As soon as I got out of the water I saw I had a one- to two-inch puncture wound with a flap of skin on my foot which immediately started bleeding.”

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** “My foot was pretty numb from the water being cold so I didn't feel too much. My friends picked me up to keep sand out and carried me up to the lifeguard station where he flushed out the wound, taped the flap of skin down, and dressed it with bandages.”

**SPECIES:** Not identified

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Ralph Collier