

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2008.04.28.a](#)

DATE: Monday April 28, 2008

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

NAME: David Alger

DESCRIPTION: He is an 18-year-old male from Lake Mary. He is tanned, 6' tall, weighs 175 pounds, and he was wearing a full black wetsuit.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: High pressure extended over the state and winds are South at 10 to 15 knots. The sky was sunny and the air temperature was 82°F.

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter. Waning Gibbous, 48% of the Moon was illuminated.

SEA CONDITIONS: The ocean temperature was 72°F, and the water was murky. There was a two- to three-foot Northeasterly swell. Light Southerly winds with crumbly waist-high surf throughout the region. The tide was incoming; mean low tide was at 03h55, mean high tide at 14h49.

ENVIRONMENT: Volusia County Beach Patrol spokesman Capt. Jack Driskell said surfers in the area near Ponce de Leon Inlet's south jetty reported seeing several sharks this morning and many surfers are apparently avoiding the location. "The word is getting out," Driskell said. Bait fish swim in huge numbers at the jetty. Young sharks often mistake arms and legs for fish. A friend of Alger's, 17-year-old Trevor Sowers, said the murky water was filled with sharks as the pair surfed about 300 yards south of Ponce de Leon Inlet's south jetty, the site of two other weekend attacks. "I saw 20 sharks while we were out there. I'm going fishing when I get out of here," he joked while waiting at the Emergency Room for Alger to be treated.

DISTANCE TO SHORE: 75 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: Four feet (waist-deep)

TIME: 12h00

NARRATIVE: The surfer was one of two people surfing in the half-mile stretch south of the jetty. "I got off a wave and I just hit the bottom and as soon as I hit the bottom, the shark just nicked me in the foot," Alger said. "It just latched on to me and two chomps real quick. I kind of kicked my foot away and it just swam away," Captain Driskell reported that lifeguards are clearing bathers and surfers when sharks are spotted in the water.

INJURY: The surfer sustained a three-inch laceration to the dorsal surface of his left foot.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The surfer was treated at the scene by Volusia County Beach Patrol's EMTs, then he drove himself to Bert Fish Medical Center where his injury was repaired with nine stitches



SPECIES: The surfer never saw the shark, Driskell said. The injury suggested that a small shark about four feet in length was involved.

SOURCES: Orlando Sentinel, April 28, 2008; Daytona News-Journal
<http://www.news-journalonline.com/NewsJournalOnline/breakingnews/shark042808.htm>

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Captain Scott Petersohn