

**ACTIVITY:** Standing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2008.06.26.a](#)

**DATE:** Thursday June 26, 2008

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Isle of Palms, Charleston County, South Carolina, USA.

**NAME:** Preston Pearman

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 37-year-old male, 5'8" tall, weighs 170 lbs, and was wearing blue swim trunks and had a gold wedding band on his left hand.

### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Last Quarter, June 26, 2008

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water was murky, visibility was "inches", according to Preston. The tide was incoming and there were high swells.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Isle of Palms is a barrier island. No one was fishing nearby.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 30 yards.

**DISTANCE FROM PIER:** A mile?

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Four feet

**TIME:** 11h00

**NARRATIVE:** Many people were on the beach and in the water. The other people were northward of Preston and no one was within 30 feet him. He had been body surfing for 10 or 20 minutes. He was standing in the water, moving his hands around on the surface of the water.

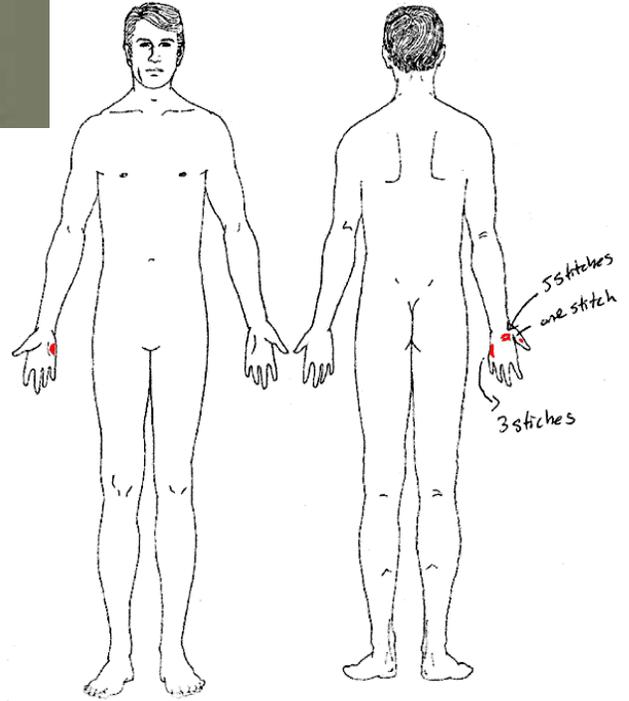
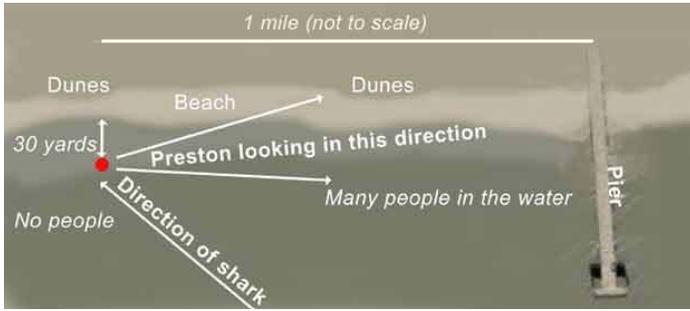
"I had just ridden a wave and was standing in the water, enjoying the vacation. My hands were on the surface. I didn't see the shark until he bit me. I looked over, saw his eyes and mouth, screamed and pulled away as he gave me a good shake. He/she took in the majority of my hand; he/she didn't come from or bite the side of my hand." The incident lasted one or two seconds and as Preston pulled his hand out of the shark's mouth, the fish swam away.

**INJURY:** Punctures and lacerations to right hand. "I feel very lucky where he bit me, the hard part of my hand instead of a lot of flesh," said Preston. The attached photos were taken three days after the accident.

**FIRST AID:** Administered on the beach by his wife and then by firefighters. Preston was taken to a hospital in a private car, arriving there 30 minutes after he was bitten.

**SPECIES:** The shark was approximately 4.5 to 5 feet in length. Preston thought it might have been a lemon shark. He noted that its eyes were "grayed over".

**SOURCE:** Preston Pearman



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