

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2009.01.11.a](#)

DATE: Sunday January 11, 2009

LOCATION: The incident took place at Fingal Beach, northern New South Wales, Australia.

NAME: Jonathan Beard

DESCRIPTION: He is a 31-year-old machinery operator from Brisbane.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, January 11, 2009

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 metres

TIME: 09h00



Jonathan Beard

NARRATIVE: Jonathon Beard was surfing with four friends. "[The shark] just came up from the deep and bang. And then the sea just turned red like a Jaws movie," said the surfer. He says the attack was over in seconds and he frantically paddled back to shore. "I just had both legs in the air just going for it and it felt like my leg was hanging off," he said.

Beard knew of the attack was when he felt a tug on his leg and saw the sea turn red with his own blood. "It lifted me out of the water like I was riding a bull or something," Mr Beard said.

INJURY: The surfer sustained a 42-cm laceration (avulsion injury) to the left thigh.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Beard's friends used their surfboard leashes and clothes as a tourniquet while they paddled the injured surfer back to the shore. After reaching the shore he was taken to the Gold Coast Hospital. Donald Pitchford, the hospital's executive director of surgery and critical care, said Mr Beard had been remarkably lucky. "The shark came within about 2cm of taking out his femoral artery and, if that happened, then by the time he got back to the beach he would have bled out," Dr Pitchford said. "It looked like a surgical wound. They must have some very sharp teeth. He is going to be all right." Mr Beard faces more surgery, including possible skin grafts but Dr Pitchford said he could return to the water as early as next month.

SPECIES: The incident involved a 3.5-metre white shark. Beard says he does not blame the shark. "It was a national park, there were no nets and it was his playground and I was on his turf."

SOURCES: Herald Sun, January 11, 2009, <http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,24898106-5005961,00.html>

Kathleen Donaghey, [goldcoast.com.au](http://www.goldcoast.com.au), January 17, 2009
http://www.goldcoast.com.au/article/2009/01/17/40505_gold-coast-lead-story.html

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Terry Peake, Global Shark Accident File

