

ACTIVITY: Boogie Boarding

CASE: GSAF 2010.06.25.b

DATE: Friday June 25, 2010

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Fripp Island, Beaufort County, South Carolina, USA.

NAME: Ella Morris

DESCRIPTION: She is a six-year-old female from Georgia.



Ella Morris

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full moon, June 26, 2010

DEPTH OF WATER: “Chest-deep”

TIME: 13h00

NARRATIVE: The Morris family was vacationing at Fripp Island. Ella was in the water with Chris Morris, her father. They were hanging on to the same side of the boogie board and Ella was between her father’s arms. “I felt something nudge the back of my thigh and before I even had time for it to register,” said Mr. Morris. “I felt something tug at her and she went under.” Ella’s father immediately picked her up and carried her to shore.

INJURY: The girl sustained a nine-inch laceration to her leg. There was no nerve or muscle damage.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: A Beaufort County paramedic and Fripp Island Fire officers provided first aid. She was transported by ambulance to Beaufort Memorial Hospital where her wound was closed with 22 sutures. Her father said he is proud of the way his daughter has handled the incident. He said, “Even on the way home, she made the comment, ‘It wasn’t the shark’s fault. It was just an accident.’”

SPECIES: Not identified. Emergency Room doctors told the family that Ella had been bitten by a shark that likely was small – between four and five feet long.

SOURCES: WSB-TV, June 29, 2010, <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/24078345/detail.html#>
Island Packet, June 29, 2010, <http://www.islandpacket.com/2010/06/29/1291503/ga-girl-upbeat-after-being-bitten.html>

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Clay Creswell, GSAF.