



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2011.07.22

DATE: Friday July 22, 2011

LOCATION: The accident took place in the Indian Ocean at Cintsa East Beach, 28 kilometres northeast of the entrance to East London harbor, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.

32°50'S, 28°07'E

NAME: Denver Struwig

DESCRIPTION: He is a 29-year-old male from East London, a surfing instructor.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 09h53, East London recorded clear skies. The air temperature was 60.8°F, dew point 50°F, humidity 68%, sea level pressure 30.33inches, and wind direction was NNW at 4.6 mph.

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 58% of the Moon was illuminated. Last Quarter, July 23, 2011.

SEA CONDITIONS: The waves were “insanely good”.

TIME: Before 10h00

NARRATIVE: Struwig was surfing in the bay with a handful of other surfers when he was bitten by a shark. The shark came at him "a number of times", and pulled him underwater. The shark released him when another surfer wearing a shark shield paddled over to help. According to reports, "The shield pulsed and the shark swam away."

Local surfer Murray Elliott, who witnessed the accident said, "I saw the shark come back three or four times for Denver. It eventually dragged him under the water and I thought that was it. I am still shaken up but I believe the shark shield is what saved Denver's life," he said.

INJURY: There were bite marks on the patient's neck, back, stomach and legs, including a severe laceration on his right lower leg, but there was no major arterial or organ damage.

FIRST AID: Beachgoers, using Struwig's surfboard as a life-raft, dragged the surfer to safety. One of the surfers on the beach, who was well-trained in first aid, took control of the situation until medics arrived. The surfer was transported by ambulance to St. Dominic's Hospital.

SPECIES: Local surfers reported the incident involved a white shark, three to four metres in length.