

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2011.10.29](#)

DATE: Saturday October 29, 2011

LOCATION: The accident took place in the Pacific Ocean at Marina State Beach, Monterey County, California, USA.
36.7°N, 121.8°W



NAME: Eric Tarantino

DESCRIPTION: He is a 27-year-old male from Monterey.

SURFBOARD: A red trifin with two white fins and one red fin.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 06h54, Monterey recorded clear skies and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 48.9°F, dew point 39° F, humidity 69%, sea level pressure 30.14 inches and wind direction was East at 3.5 mph.

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 12% of the Moon was illuminated. New Moon, October 26, 2011.

ENVIRONMENT: This section of the coast is known for its rugged surf with very strong rip currents. The area where the incident took place is considered an advanced surfing spot suitable only for skilled surfers.

TIME: 07h00

NARRATIVE: Tarantino and a friend, Brandon McKibben of Salinas, entered the water. "Eric had paddled a little bit deeper than me, onto the peak," McKibben said. "I could hear him yelling 'Shark! Shark!' And at that point we turned around and started paddling in as fast as we could." McKibben said he looked at Tarantino, 4 feet away, and noticed his arm was bleeding badly. We got to the shore, and there were a couple of guys walking on the beach with their boards and I asked them to call 911," McKibben said.

INJURY: The surfer was bitten on the neck and arm along the right side of his body. The gash to the top of his forearm was probably 2 inches long, the two gashes on the wrist area were about 4 to 6 inches, the injury to his neck was 2 inches, but fairly deep," said Paul Morris, a Salinas dentist who had been preparing to surf when the accident took place.

DAMAGE TO SURFBOARD: The shark took a 19-inch chunk from Tarantino's surfboard.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Eight to 10 fellow surfers used beach towels to apply a tourniquet to Tarantino's arm and staunch the bleeding from his neck. Paramedics arrived about eight minutes later, witnesses said, and treated Tarantino before transporting him to Marina Municipal Airport. From there, he was airlifted to San Jose. Doctors at San Jose Regional Medical Center said Tarantino will recover fully and may be released Monday.

SPECIES: White shark

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Ralph Collier



Eric Tarantino and his surfboard

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David Royal / AP

A California state lifeguard with Tarantino's surfboard.



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