



Pirates Beach, Galveston

ACTIVITY: Floating

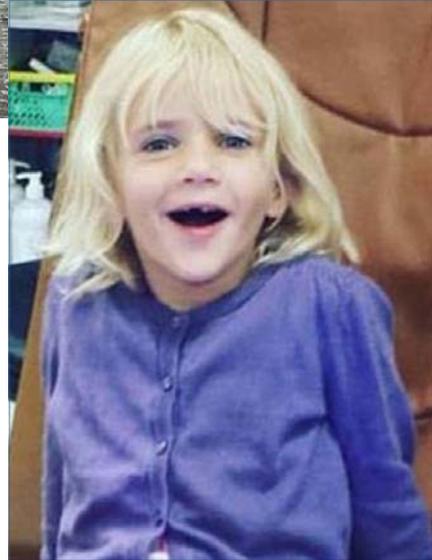
CASE: **GSAF 2016.06.14**

DATE: Tuesday June 14, 2016

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Gulf of Mexico at Pirates Beach on the west end of Galveston Island, Galveston County, Texas, USA.

NAME: Marin Alice Melton

DESCRIPTION: A six-year-old female from Kerrville.



Marin Alice Melton

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 17h34, KGLS (Scholes International at Galveston) recorded mostly cloudy skies and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 87.1°F, heat index 101.5°F, dew point 79°F, humidity 77%, sea level pressure 29.89 inches, and wind direction was South at 15 mph.

MOON PHASE: Waxing Gibbous, 72% of the Moon was illuminated. First Quarter, June 12, 2016.

ENVIRONMENT: "You can fish the surf along most of the island's beaches year-round, according to <http://www.galveston.com/islandfishing/>. "The proper combination of bait and tackle will net you redfish, kings and even sharks." The incident took place amid a school of bait fish

DEPTH OF WATER: Knee-deep

TIME: 17h30

NARRATIVE: Matthew Melton, his 12-year-old son and 5-year-old daughter were returning to shore from swimming when Marin was bitten. Mr. Melton said his daughter was in knee-deep water, on a pink rubber ring, flutter-kicking while bait fish jumped around her. He heard her scream, saw the shark and pulled her away. The shark immediately let go and swam away, said Peter Davis, the head of Galveston's beach patrol. The girl's father took her to shore.

INJURY: Significant soft tissue damage to her left lower posterior leg, according to Galveston County Health District EMS. She was bitten below the calf, above the left foot,

sustaining vascular damage, but no bones were damaged.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Beach-goers used a dog leash as a tourniquet to control bleeding. The patient was transported to University of Texas Medical Branch in stable condition. The girl's father wrote on Facebook that his daughter is recovering but is going to need more surgeries to repair damage to her "lower leg and foot."

SPECIES: According to the girl's father, the incident involved "a 3- to 4-foot-long white-bellied shark". Peter Davis, the head of Galveston's beach patrol said, "Our belief is the shark bit this little girl's leg thinking it was a fish," Davis said. Davis was quick to point out this was a bite, not an attack. He says a bite is a case of mistaken identity.

SOURCES: Click Houston, June 14, 2016

<http://www.click2houston.com/news/shark-bites-6-year-old-girl-in-galveston>

Click 2 Houston, June 14, 2015

<http://www.click2houston.com/news/shark-bites-6-year-old-girl-in-galveston>

Daily Mail, June 14, 2016

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3642194/Girl-5-suffers-shark-bite-leg-Texas-beach-attacks-worldwide-hit-time-high.html>

ABC Eyewitness News, June 14, 2016

<http://abc13.com/news/girl-6-bitten-by-shark-at-pirates-beach-in-galveston/1385901/>

Sky News, June 15, 2016

<http://news.sky.com/story/1712182/shark-attacks-girl-floating-in-rubber-ring>



Marin Alice Melton