

ACTIVITY: Floating / Treading water

CASE: GSAF 2016.11.14

DATE: Monday November 14, 2016

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean off Kamaole Beach Park No. 1, near Kihei, Maui, Hawaii, USA.

NAME: Barbara Zawacki

DESCRIPTION: A 58-year-old female from Kihei. She was wearing a bright green swim suit and is “a frequent beachgoer”.



BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, 100% of the Moon was illuminated.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was clear.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 30 to 40 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: 15 feet

TIME: Between 10h00 and 10h30

NARRATIVE: Barbara Zawacki was by herself near the buoy fronting the lifeguard tower when she was bitten by a shark. “I’m doing my exercises, (then) all of a sudden, I literally am propelled through the water. I went backward in the water, with the force of the shark, when he bit me,” she said. “I look and I see this massive gray thing. For a split second, I thought it was a whale because it was so big. I don’t know if he was going to come back for another bite,” she recalled. “All I could think about was swim to shore.” She remembered swimming sideways, “kind of looking” to see if the shark was coming back. “I was not able to use my legs so good.” As she neared the shore she yelled out: “Out of the water, there is a shark.”

Lifeguards used a loudspeaker to call swimmers out of the water. A small boat was launched to warn people about the incident before personal watercraft arrived to patrol the waters. Shark warning signs were posted at all three Kamaole Beach Parks and Kalama Park, and closed the waters from Kalama Park to the Kihei Boat Ramp until noon the following day, as per the state’s shark response protocol, after which surveys of the waters offshore determine if a hazard remained.

INJURY: The patient sustained multiple lacerations to her right calf and thigh,

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Lifeguards treated the woman before she was taken to Maui Memorial Medical Center.

SPECIES: The incident was thought to involve a tiger shark.

SOURCES: Honolulu Star Advertiser, Monday November 14, 2016

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/15864d2ac6046a2b>

Khon2, November 14, 2016

<http://khon2.com/2016/11/14/kihei-beach-parks-closed-due-to-shark-attack/>

Maui Now, November 14, 2016

<http://mauinow.com/2016/11/14/shark-attack-kamaole-closed-while-crews-monitor-the-area/>

The Maui News, November 17, 2016
<http://www.mauinews.com/news/local-news/2016/11/shark-bite-victim-fear-cant-rule-a-persons-life/>

