



Shark Prevention, Sightings, Interactions, Response

1. General Prevention

- A. Beach-goers should be aware of the inherent risks of dangerous marine life in both the ocean and the bay, and that despite the lifeguard's best efforts at detection, prevention and early warning, that shark interactions can happen unexpectedly and without warning.
- B. Beach-goers will be advised that the closer to shore a swimmer is, the quicker and more efficient the life-guard response will be and the sooner that the swimmer can be extricated from the water, and the sooner that medical response can be alerted and commenced if necessary.
- C. Given the presence of sharks in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean off of Fire Island during the Lifeguard-season, "Dangerous Marine Life" signs should be posted at all Lifeguard-beach locations.
- D. Lifeguards should make their best efforts to recognize shark behavior that may be considered threatening, and to coordinate with other area lifeguard jurisdictions and agencies to be made aware of possible threatening shark activity in the general area.

2. Prevention in Response to Identified Shark Activity

- A. When behavior of a shark or sharks appears to present an unusual hazard to swimmers, it is appropriate to require persons to leave the water at the discretion of the lifeguard..
- B. If notification that a lifeguarded beach in any jurisdiction between Robert Moses State Park and Ocean Beach has closed its beaches due to observation of sharks in their area(s), Saltaire Lifeguards shall be advised to maintain heightened vigilance at their locations.

- C. If notification that a lifeguarded beach in any jurisdiction between Robert Moses State Park and Ocean Beach has closed its beaches due to a shark bite, Saltaire Lifeguards shall require swimmers to leave the waters until an assessment can be made by the Chief Lifeguard or Chief of Watch in conjunction with Village Administration that an immediate threat does not exist and it is appropriate to reopen the water to aquatic activity.
- D. If a shark bite occurs on a Lifeguard beach location within Saltaire, Saltaire Lifeguards shall require swimmers to leave the waters for at least 30 minutes, and then not until an assessment can be made by the Chief Lifeguard or Chief of Watch in conjunction with Village Administration that an immediate threat does not exist and it is appropriate to reopen the water to aquatic activity.
- E. In the case of a shark attack, wherein the shark repeatedly bites or pursues a human, Saltaire Lifeguards shall require swimmers to leave the waters for at least one hour, and then not until an assessment can be made by the Chief Lifeguard or Chief of Watch in conjunction with Village Administration that an immediate threat does not exist and it is appropriate to reopen the water to aquatic activity.
- F. In response to multiple sightings and interactions within a short period of time, Saltaire Lifeguards shall require swimmers to leave the waters, and the Chief Lifeguard shall request a drone survey of the water from the Suffolk County Marine Division or the State Park Division, and shall not open the waters to aquatic activity until such survey is completed and an assessment has been made that there is no immediate threat of further incident or interactions with sharks.

3. Lifeguard Response to Shark Attack

- A. If a lifeguard observes a shark bite in progress, the lifeguard should immediately notify other lifeguards and determine the most appropriate course of action. This should follow the agency's overall emergency response plans and any specific plans that may exist for shark bites.
- B. The United States Lifesaving Association cannot issue a blanket recommendation that a lifeguard without protective equipment attempt to intervene during a shark bite incident, due to the potential danger. International Shark Attack File statistics however, suggest that danger to the lifeguard in an attempt to intervene is extremely limited. Moreover, in the vast majority of cases, the shark will affect a bite, then leave the victim.
- C. Once injury has been inflicted to the victim, heavy bleeding is likely, so rescue from the water and immediate medical aid may be essential to victim survival. If a rescue boat is not available and if, as is most typically the case, the shark bite

appears to be a typical single hit and run incident, and if the lifeguard considers it safe and within agency guidelines to enter the water, the lifeguard should perform a rescue and treat the wounds of the victim.

- D. Once the victim has been evacuated to shore or to a rescue boat, appropriate emergency medical assistance should be provided, in accordance with the lifeguard's training. In addition to normal emergency medical priorities, particular attention should be paid to stopping bleeding and treating for shock.