



# Shark Safety Policy

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## Purpose

A guide to recognising and overcoming risks associated with the provision of Lifesaving Services while sharing an environment that sharks may inhabit.

## Scope

All operational levels of Life Saving Victoria

## Policy

This policy aims to:

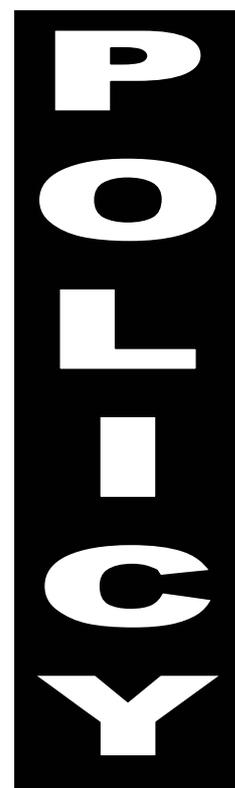
- Help identify existing and potential health and safety issues.
- Raise the overall awareness of hazard identification and risk reduction.
- Assist in establishing risk management procedures.

For the purposes of this document the word shark is used in the broad sense to include all sharks, although it is recognised that not all sharks are dangerous with nearly all fatal attacks in coastal waters being attributed to just three species - Bullsharks, Tiger Sharks and White Pointer Sharks.

## Action of Sightings

In the event of a shark sighting the following precautions are recommended:

- Request all swimmers to leave the water
- Close the beach to all swimming and post appropriate signage (if specific signage is not available standard “no swimming” and “danger” signs may be utilised).
- Advise beach visitors to remain clear of the water.
- Do not attempt to kill, capture or injure the animal.
- Record as much detail regarding the sighting as possible.



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## Actions in the event of a Shark Attack

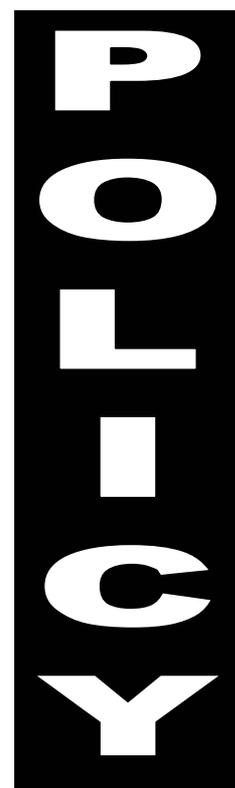
Shark or crocodile attack and powerboat injuries can result in massive tissue damage and severe blood loss. The following general treatment applies (specific information is contained within the SLSA training manual):

- Bring the patient to the beach as quickly as possible.
- Apply immediate first aid.
- Co-ordinate hospital transport and pre-hospital emergency care.
- Follow precautions outlined in 'Actions on Sightings'.
- Advise relevant Government Department as soon as practicable.

## Personal Safety

Some simple rules for safe swimming apply to help reduce the risk of incidents involving sharks and humans.

- Always swim at a patrolled beach and between the flags.
- Leave the water immediately if a shark is sighted.
- Never swim alone.
- Never swim at dawn or dusk or at night.
- Never swim in murky waters.
- Do not swim near schools of fish.
- Do not swim in canals or near a river mouth.
- Do not swim near, or interfere with, shark control equipment.



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