



Hollywood Fire Rescue and Beach Safety Department



PERSONAL RECOGNITION

On: 7/22/25
Date

Charles Mahalec
Employee

Was noted to have demonstrated a professional or selfless act whole:

_____ Dealing with the public

_____ During a class or drill

X During routine duties

_____ Other

Re: At approximately 2:50 PM, Lifeguard Charles Mahalec from Tower S10 reported a medical emergency involving a 49-year-old male on the shoreline who had sustained a shark bite to his upper left arm. The patient was conscious and alert at the time of the call.

Lifeguard Mahalec was first on scene and immediately took charge of the situation by applying direct pressure to the wound and moving the patient to higher ground to ensure safety. Fire Rescue was promptly requested, and nearby Beach Safety units began responding.

Marine Safety Officer Oakley Skove arrived shortly after and took over wound management, maintaining pressure using 4x4 gauze. Personnel from Hallandale Beach Patrol assisted at the scene. As the patient's condition began to deteriorate—exhibiting pale skin and a decrease in responsiveness—Officer Skove applied a tourniquet to the upper left arm at approximately 3:00 PM.

Lieutenant Alan Beech coordinated the transport and communication with Fire Rescue, directing them to meet at the Hallandale Beach access point behind 4111 S. Ocean Dr. The patient was loaded into a side-by-side utility vehicle, with Officer Skove seated in the bed of the vehicle alongside the patient and the patient's son riding in the front seat. Upon arrival, the patient was able to step off the vehicle and onto Fire Rescue's stretcher. Care was successfully transferred to Fire Rescue.

All responding personnel demonstrated excellent communication, coordination, and medical response. The ocean was cleared of bathers immediately following the incident to ensure public safety.

Officer:	Date:
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