

# Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

## Alligator Bites<sup>1</sup> on People in Florida

Last Updated: December, 2022

*NOTE: These statistics are the latest figures available and may not include recent incidents that are still undergoing investigation*

Year	Major <sup>2</sup>	Fatal	Minor <sup>3</sup>	Total
2022	9	(0)	2	11
2021	7	(0)	2	9
2020	8	(0)	4	12
2019	5	(1)	5	10
2018	9	(1)	1	10
2017	10	(0)	2	12
2016	8	(1)	0	8
2015	9	(1)	0	9
2014	9	(0)	1	10
2013	8	(0)	7	15
2012	3	(0)	7	10
2011	5	(0)	1	6
2010	6	(0)	0	6
2009	6	(0)	2	8
2008	5	(0)	1	6
2007	6	(1)	8	14
2006	8	(3)	4	12
2005	8	(2)	1	9
2004	9	(2)	3	12
2003	9	(1)	1	10
2002	8	(0)	5	13
2001	11	(3)	5	16
2000	8	(0)	5	13

Year	Major <sup>2</sup>	Fatal	Minor <sup>3</sup>	Total
1999	5	(0)	5	10
1998	3	(0)	2	5
1997	4	(1)	1	5
1996	4	(0)	2	6
1995	9	(0)	4	13
1994	5	(0)	6	11
1993	8	(2)	4	12
1992	5	(0)	1	6
1991	5	(0)	5	10
1990	3	(0)	10	13
1989	4	(0)	5	9
1988	6	(1)	3	9
1987	3	(1)	6	9
1986	3	(0)	10	13
1985	4	(1)	2	6
1984	5	(1)	0	5
1983	5	(0)	1	6
1982	4	(0)	3	7
1981	5	(0)	3	8
1980	4	(0)	0	4
1979	2	(0)	0	2
1978	6	(1)	0	6
1977	13	(1)	1	14
1976	2	(0)	0	2
1975	4	(0)	0	4
1974	4	(0)	0	4
1973	3	(1)	0	3
1972	3	(0)	0	3
1971	3	(0)	0	3

Year	Major <sup>2</sup>	Fatal	Minor <sup>3</sup>	Total
1968	0	(0)	0	0
1959	0	(0)	0	0
1958	1	(0)	0	1
1952	1	(0)	0	1
1950	1	(0)	0	1
1948	1	(0)	0	1
<b>Totals:</b>	312	26	141	453

1. All bites reported in this summary table are considered unprovoked bites. Unprovoked bites are defined as bites on people by wild alligators, which were not provoked by handling or intentional harassment.

2. Major bites are those in which the victims' injuries required medical care, beyond first aid, to treat wounds. This column includes fatal bites.

3. Minor bites are those in which the victims' injuries were superficial and required no treatment or only first aid.

For additional information concerning alligators,  
please contact the State Nuisance Alligator Program at  
1-866-FWC-GATOR (392-4286)

1. Sharon Holmes, 16, female, was killed while swimming in a lake at Oscar Scherer State Park in Sarasota County on Aug. 16, 1973. The responsible alligator was an 11' 3" male.
2. George Leonard, 52, male, was seized on the arm by an alligator while swimming in the Peace River Canal in Charlotte County on Sept. 28, 1977, and subsequently died three days later of complications from the bite. The responsible alligator was 7' in length.
3. Phillip Rastrelli, 14, male, was killed while swimming across the Hidden River Canal off Bessie Creek in Martin County on Sept. 10, 1978. The responsible alligator was an 11' male.
4. Robert Crespi, 11, male, was killed while swimming in an unnamed canal in St. Lucie County on Aug. 6, 1984. The responsible alligator was 12' 4" in length.
5. Paul Mirabito, 27, male, was killed while swimming in the Wellington C27 canal in Palm Beach County on May 4, 1985. The length and sex of the responsible alligator was not recorded.
6. George Cummings III, 29, male, was killed while snorkeling in the Wakulla River in Wakulla County on July 13, 1987. The responsible alligator was 11' male.
7. Erin Glover, 4, female, was killed while standing at the water's edge of Hidden Lake in Charlotte County on June 4, 1988. The responsible alligator was a 10' 7" male.
8. Bradley Weidenhamer, 10, male, was killed while wading in the Loxahatchee River at Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Martin County on June 19, 1993. The responsible alligator was an 11' 4" male.
9. Grace Eberhart, 70, female, was found dead at Lake Serenity in Sumter County on Oct. 3, 1993. Her death was determined to be caused by an alligator and several alligators were removed with the largest one measuring 9' 7" in length.
10. Adam Binford, 3, male, was killed while playing along the shore of Lake Ashby in Volusia County on March 21, 1997. The responsible alligator was 11' in length.
11. Samuel Wetmore, 70, male, was found dead at an unnamed pond near his residence in Venice in Sarasota County on May 4, 2001. His death was determined to be caused by an alligator, and the responsible alligator was 8' 4" in length.
12. Alexandria Murphy, 2, female, was found dead at Lake Cannon in Polk County on June 23, 2001. Her death was determined to be caused by an alligator, and the responsible alligator was 6' 6" in length.
13. Robert Steele, 82, male, was killed while walking his dog along the water's edge of an unnamed wetland near his residence in Sanibel in Lee County on Sept. 11, 2001. The responsible alligator was 10' 9" in length.
14. Brian Griffin, 12, male, was killed while swimming near a boat ramp in the Dead River in Lake County on June 18, 2003. The responsible alligator was a 10' 4" male.

15. Janie Melsek, 54, female, was seized by an alligator while landscaping at the water's edge of an unnamed pond in Sanibel in Lee County on July 21, 2004, and subsequently died of complications from the bite. The responsible alligator was a 12' 3" male.
16. Michelle Reeves, 20, female, was killed while swimming in a retention pond at the Lee Memorial Health Park in Lee County on Sept. 26, 2004. The responsible alligator was a 7' 11" male.
17. Donald Ray Owen, 56, male, was found dead at Six Pound Pond near Lakeland in Polk County on March 11, 2005. His death was determined to be caused by an alligator, and the responsible alligator was a 9' 8" male.
18. Kevin Murray, 41, male, was killed while swimming in an unnamed canal in Port Charlotte in Charlotte County on July 15, 2005. The responsible alligator was a 12' 2" male.
19. Yovoy Suarez-Jimenez, 28, female, was found dead along the North New River Canal in Sunrise in Broward County on May 10, 2006. Her death was determined to be caused by an alligator, and the responsible alligator was a 9' 6" male.
20. Judy Cooper, 42, female, was found dead at an unnamed canal in the East Lake Woodlands subdivision in Oldsmar in Pinellas County on May 13, 2006. Her death was determined to be caused by an alligator, and the responsible alligator was an 8' 5" female.
21. Annmarie Campbell, 23, female, was killed while snorkeling in Juniper Run in the Ocala National Forest in Lake County on May 14, 2006. The responsible alligator was an 11' 5" male.
22. Justo Antonio Padron, 36, male, was killed while trying to evade the police by swimming across a pond at the Miccosukee Indian reservation in west Miami in Miami-Dade County on Nov. 8, 2007. The responsible alligator was 9' 4" in length.
23. James Okkerse, 61, male, was killed while snorkeling in Blue Spring Run in Orange City in Volusia County on Oct. 19, 2015. The responsible alligator was a 12' ½" male.
24. Lane Graves, 2, male, was killed while playing along the shoreline of Seven Seas Lagoon in Orange County on June 14, 2016. Two alligators measuring 7-8' in length were removed.
25. Shizuka Matzuki, 47, female, was killed while walking her dogs along the water's edge of an unnamed lake at Silver Lakes Rotary Nature Park in Davie in Broward County on June 6, 2018. The responsible alligator was a 12' 4" male.
26. Jordan Battle, 31, male, was killed while trying to evade the police by swimming across a retention pond in Fort Myers in Lee County on April 22, 2019. The responsible alligator was a 10' 3" male.
27. Sean McGuinness, 49, male, was retrieving golf frisbees at Taylor Park in Largo in Pinellas County on May 31, 2022. Two male alligators measuring 8-10' in length were removed.
28. Rose Marie Weigand, 80, female, was killed while gardening at her residence in the Boca Royale Golf Course Community in Englewood in Sarasota County on July, 14, 2022. Two alligators were removed measuring 8'11" and 7'7".