

VOLVO TRUCKS CUSTOMERS TALK ABOUT VOLVO SAFETY

“This collision between truck and train solidified our dedication to Volvo trucks.”

**Tommy Johnson, Safety Director
Big M Transportation/Diesel Express**

A tractor-trailer crossing paths with a freight train is a chilling thought. A driver surviving such an incident completely unharmed is what legends (and Volvo trucks) are made of.

“On January 11, 2010 one of our Volvo VN 780s pulling a load of rolled paper was approaching the Alabama State Docks in Mobile. Train tracks crisscross much of the port area, and not all of the crossings are equipped with warning signals or crossing arms.

“At approximately 10:00 a.m. our driver, a seasoned veteran of the road, approached a crossing with neither signals nor crossing arms - only a guard shack to his right. The glare of the bright sun impaired his view down the track. As he proceeded to slowly cross the track he was struck on the right side of the cab by an oncoming train travelling at approximately 20 mph. The impact spun the tractor-trailer sideways, dragging it 200 feet down the track. The tractor then impacted a loading dock, which tore it loose from the train. With the truck now stopped, the driver crawled out the drivers-side window onto the loading dock completely unharmed – not even a scratch.

“The damage to the cab was so severe you could barely tell it was a Volvo. It looked more like a cab-over. However, the motor had dropped under the tractor and the steering wheel pushed up and away from our driver just as it was designed to do, not only saving his life, but keeping him injury free.

“I always thought Volvo trucks were the safest trucks on the road because of the way they are designed, and safety is one of the major reasons we purchase them for our fleet. This incident just solidifies our dedication to Volvo trucks.”



**Big M Transportation/Diesel
Express, Blue Mountain, MS**

**48-state general commodities
hauler**

**200 Class 8 tractors, 190 of which
are Volvo-powered VN 780s**

500 dry van trailers

**Average annual miles per truck:
140,000**

Volvo customer since 2005

For more information on Volvo, contact your local Volvo dealership or visit us online at www.volvotrucks.us.com.

©2010, Volvo Group North America LLC
All rights reserved.

TST-10-002

Volvo Trucks. Driving Success.®



VOLVO TRUCKS CUSTOMERS TALK ABOUT VOLVO SAFETY

“Our driver is grateful he was in a Volvo truck when this horrendous accident occurred.”

Sam Klair, Owner



You never know what mischief Mother Nature has in store. But when you're behind the wheel of a heavy-duty truck, you want to be sure whatever comes your way, you and your truck can handle it safely.

“We have been buying Volvo trucks off and on for the last 18 years. It has always been our first choice, and safety is one of the reasons why.

“Fortunately, on the night of February 10, 2009, it was a Volvo VN 780 our driver was operating when weather conditions went from bad to worse.

“At 1:00 a.m. this unit was travelling on Highway 11 near Hearst, ON loaded with dry goods bound for British Columbia. Road conditions had deteriorated to mixed snow and rain and our driver slowed down to meet conditions. Our best guess is that the tractor hit a patch of black ice as it suddenly jackknifed. The trailer wrenched toward the shoulder while the tractor slid sideways across the road. Unfortunately, another fully-loaded tractor-trailer travelling behind our unit had been picking up speed at that time and was unable to stop. The force of the crash tore the VN 780's cab from its mountings and sheared off the entire front end (note the engine lying in the road.)

“Astonishingly, our driver's only injuries were a few broken and bruised ribs, and he is extremely grateful he was behind the wheel of a Volvo when this incident occurred.

“It was Volvo's high-strength steel cab that protected our driver, and I believe that had he been in any other brand of truck, he might not have survived this accident.” ■



**Sam Klair, Owner
Day Night Cargo, Inc.
Mississauga, ON**

General commodities carrier

**20 Class 8 trucks including five
Volvo VNs**

Volvo customer since early 1990s

For more information on Volvo, contact your local Volvo dealership or visit us online at www.volvotrucks.us.com.

©2009, Volvo Trucks North America. All rights reserved.

Volvo Trucks. Driving Success.®



VOLVO CUSTOMERS TALK SAFETY

“IT WAS THE INTEGRITY OF THE VOLVO CAB THAT SAVED US.”

Kenn & Beth Zelten, Owner-Operators



They're called the "Wreckhouse Winds". It's a phenomena that occurs along a short stretch of the TransCan highway in Newfoundland when strong southeasterly winds slam into the mountains and accelerate as they tumble down to the highway below. They can blow an 18-wheeler right off the highway. And that's exactly what happened to Kenn and Beth Zelten and their D12-powered VN 300 one cold, rainy night in January.



Beth: "At 10:45 p.m. on January 19, 2007 we were traveling along a stretch of the TransCan highway just north of Port aux Basques, NF pulling an 1,800 lb. 322" helicopter blade bound for Connecticut. It was raining and windy, but having heard the stories of this area, known as the "Wreckhouse" region, we kept our speed down to a comfortable 50 mph. Suddenly a tremendous wind gust, estimated at between 110 and 130 mph, struck the left side of our truck, lifting and throwing it into a steep ditch on the right. Upon impact the windshield broke lose and pivoted and we slid 200 feet forward and sideways."



Ken: "When we finally came to a stop Beth, who was in the passenger seat, was buried in cold, wet mud up to her neck making it difficult for her to breathe. I was hanging from my seatbelt and used my hands to try to dig her out. Within 20 minutes help arrived and freed us from the cab. Fortunately our injuries were minor. Beth was bruised and sustained a cut on her right arm and I had a bump on the head and frostbitten fingers. The tow truck driver showed us photos of other vehicles that had been blown off of this stretch of road in the same way. None were Volvo trucks, and all had severely damaged cabs and busted A-pillars."

Beth: "Safety has always been one of our primary concerns, and one of the many reasons we have driven nothing but Volvo trucks during our 18 years on the road together. This was our first accident, and we are convinced it was the integrity of the Volvo cab and, in particular, the strength of the A-pillars that saved us from greater harm. We now own a D16-powered VN 730 and love it. Aside from safety, you just can't beat the ride, comfort, visibility and maneuverability of a Volvo truck."



VN 730

Owner-Operators Menominee, MI

Haul for: FedEx Custom Critical

Current Equipment: Volvo D16-powered VN 730

Volvo Customer Since: 1980s

For more information on Volvo, contact your local Volvo dealership or visit us online at www.volvotrucks.us.com.

Volvo Trucks. Driving Success.®

© 2008, Volvo Trucks North America. All rights reserved.



VOLVO CUSTOMERS TALK SAFETY

“THE INTEGRITY OF THE VOLVO HIGH STRENGTH STEEL CAB PROTECTED ME FROM INJURY DURING THIS ROLL-OVER.”

Darall Snyder, Owner-Operator

A former Kenworth owner, Darall Snyder made the switch to Volvo trucks in 2003 for three primary reasons: Driver comfort, fuel economy and safety. He has reaped the benefits of all three. One cold, rainy night in January.



“The pre-owned 1998 Volvo 770 I purchased in 2003 was my first Volvo truck, and it was by far the quietest, best-riding truck I have ever driven. Its Volvo D12 engine had already chalked up 1.1 million miles, but still ran like a top and delivered outstanding fuel economy.

“On September 5, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., I was in my Volvo headed down Highway 5 near Saskatoon pulling a load of peat moss. Suddenly I felt the trailer (which unbeknownst to me had been in a previous accident) shift to the right on a stretch of the highway that has a very sharp shoulder. I tried to hold against the pull, but then I felt the cab’s left wheels leave the ground. The truck and trailer slammed onto its right side, slid 100 meters down a grassy knoll and came to rest on its roof at the bottom of a ditch. I switched off the engine, which was still running, slid over to the driver’s-side window and exited the vehicle, unhurt but for a slight scrape on one shoulder.

“When the Fire Department arrived they tried the driver’s-side door and it popped right open. Once the wrecker lifted the tractor upright, the passenger door also worked perfectly. The operator’s compartment had stayed intact and the steel cab held its integrity.

“In my 15 years of driving I have witnessed several roll-overs, and have friends who were involved roll-over events. Unfortunately, none of them fared quite as well as I did. I can only attribute that to the safety Volvo engineers into their products. My plan is to replace this unit with a Volvo 780.”



VN 780

Owner-Operator. Drives for A & K Enns Trucking. Hauls flatbed loads throughout U.S. and Canada.

Hometown: Bjorkdale, SK

Equipment: 1998 Volvo 770 with Volvo D12 engine

Average annual miles driven: 100,000

Volvo Customer Since: 2003

For more information on Volvo, contact your local Volvo dealership or visit us online at www.volvotrucks.us.com.

© 2008, Volvo Trucks North America. All rights reserved.

Volvo Trucks. Driving Success.®



VOLVO CUSTOMERS TALK SAFETY

“THE IMPACT WAS SO SEVERE THE CAB HAD TO BE SEVERED FROM THE CHASSIS. BUT OUR DRIVER WALKED AWAY UNHARMED.”

Charles Morgan, Director of Logistics, Franklin Logistics



Franklin Logistics believes a comfortable driver is a safer driver. That was one of the reasons they switched to Volvo trucks two years ago. That decision may have saved the life of one of their drivers.

“We are a very safety-conscious fleet, and made the switch to Volvo trucks in 2004 because of Volvo’s reputation for safety and driver comfort. Earlier this year, those safety features helped one of our drivers walk away unscathed from a very serious accident.

On February 26, 2006, we had three Volvo 670s traveling together down I-55 loaded with furniture headed for Texas. The driver of the middle unit suddenly became ill, reached for her water bottle, then blacked out. Traveling in the left lane at approximately 65 mph, the truck veered left into the median and crashed into a heavy stand of pine trees. The next thing our driver remembers is waking, opening the driver’s-side door and exiting the vehicle. Aside from minor cuts and bruising, she was unharmed.

The impact was so severe it demolished the truck’s hood and radiator, crushed the right side of the unit and tore off the high-rise roof. The only axle left under the chassis was the tandem. In fact, the towing company had to cut the cab from the chassis to remove the wreckage from the trees. But all the Volvo safety features performed as designed and maintained the integrity of the driver compartment. The engine dropped down and under the cab upon impact, the steering column broke away and the air bag deployed. I am convinced that had our driver been in any other brand of truck, she would not have walked away from this incident without severe injury.

When you buy a truck, you are told a lot of things about what it can do. But until you experience an incident such as this, you take those things with a grain of salt. This event convinced us that Volvo absolutely makes the safest trucks on the market, and that fact will certainly influence our future purchase decisions.”



VN 780

Location: Houston, MS

Type: Dedicated carrier to Franklin Corp., a furniture manufacturer

Equipment: 54 total tractors, 160 trailers. 38 tractors are Volvo VN 670 and 780 units, all with Volvo D12-465 engines

Average annual mileage per truck: 125,000

Volvo Customer Since: 2004

For more information on Volvo, contact your local Volvo dealership or visit us online at www.volvotrucks.us.com.

Volvo Trucks. Driving Success.®

