

## 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](http://www.volvotrucks.us.com).

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