

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.

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