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**FROM THE EDITOR**By [Michael Stone](#) | [Email the author](#) | May 11, 2011[Opinion](#), [Police & Fire](#)

Two Rolls Across the Interstate and I'm Glad to Be Alive

I'm also grateful for the responders, whom some never truly appreciate until they're in a time of need.

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When you switch lanes in hopes of going faster, the new one always seems to slow down as soon as you cross over.

Immediately after I moved into the far right lane on Interstate 20 near the Thornton Road exit Tuesday, the line of cars practically stopped—at the head of the line, an 18-wheeler was slowly chugging up the incline of the road.

But the slow-go was soon to be the least of my worries.

BAM!

About 15 seconds after I switched lanes, my Ford Ranger was struck from behind, sending me rolling (literally) to the left across all four lanes. With a gap between my truck bed and the road, I assume the other car's front end acted as a fast-moving wedge.

After two complete rotations, my truck came to a rest right-side up, half in the left-side shoulder, half jutting into the lane.

The roof became concave, more so right above my head. Most all the glass was broken out. Even a wheel (or was it two?) got knocked off. As for me, I had some small cuts on my hand and one on my forehead, and there are several targeted areas on my body still in pain—especially in my back—that I hope will soon disappear.

During the trip to the hospital, the paramedic in the back of the ambulance said something to the effect of: "On your way home, you need to buy a lottery ticket because today is your lucky day. When we pulled up and saw the wreck, we figured someone had died."

Remembering what happened the last time I took a coin to a scratch-off ticket, I decided against a lotto purchase.

But I did do something that I don't do that often: I prayed, thanking God for sparing my crucial innards, my limbs, and, most importantly, my life.

I also thanked him for my mom teaching me the importance of seat belts.

I thanked him for my truck not hitting another vehicle as it went tumbling across the road during heavy late-afternoon traffic.

I thanked him for the two men who stopped to help before the first emergency responders arrived. After they kindly gathered my belongings that were strewn across the interstate, I gave them both my most sincere hug ever.

I thanked him for my two coworkers, John Barker and Holly Roberson, who happened to be passing by right after the wreck and also stopped to help.

And I thanked him for the firefighters, police and medical personnel some never truly appreciate until they're in a time of need.

As for the driver who hit me, he told police that he was looking down as he approached the line of cars and, when he finally realized he needed to stop, accidentally slammed on the accelerator instead of the brake. A simple yet important lesson: Pay attention to the road, because failing to do so could cost lives, including your own.

Reflecting back on the surreal event, I don't have quite the reinvigorated thirst for "living life to the fullest" that one might expect—though that might come later as things continue to sink in. But currently, I do sincerely mean all my aforementioned appreciation and am truly grateful to be alive.

And I hope that you—presumably someone who hasn't survived two rolls across the interstate but has incurred other various perils—will take a moment to reflect on how truly precious life is, regardless of the curve balls it serves up sometimes.

Do it the very next time you get a chance because one of your next action—even something as routine as changing lanes—could be your last in the fragility of life.

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Chris J.

7:40 am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Michael, got chills reading your story. I've offered up my own prayer of thanks, for your survival and also for the lesson you offer us all.

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tanisha

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8:42 am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Thanks for reminding all of us that this can happen to anyone if we are not paying attention to the road. I was in the dead stop traffic yesterday wondering what was going, figuring it had to be an accident and hoping no one was hurt or worse off, dead. Glad you and the other driver are okay. God works miracles in the midst of destruction.

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Kiri Walton

9:43 am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Wow. Like I said yesterday, "Thank God you survived," and I am so glad that you did! That paramedic didn't know it had absolutely nothing to do with luck.

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BeverlyMedley-McCall

10:49 am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

So glad you are all right! That is really scary!

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Cheryl Sarvis

11:14 am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Michael

I'm glad you are OK. We would miss your smiling face. What a frightening experience to go through!

Cheryl Sarvis

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Brande Poulnot

11:45 am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Wow! Glad you made it through that alright!

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Stan Kaady

12:10 pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Glad you're ok, Michael. We need you!

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Julia Harris

1:11 pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

The world isn't ready to let you go just yet. You've got more love, compassion, understanding, writing, and greatness to share with the world. Oh, and you need to update your Patch Planner, lol.

Glad you survived. :)

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Michael Stone

1:30 pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Hey all, I really appreciate everyone. I'm doing great today and feel like nothing even happened. And Julia, I do believe I updated that a couple days ago :)

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Katie Dolac

7:03 am on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Beautifully told, Mr. Stone. God has band of angels protecting you. It's good to be grateful. I'm glad you're OK.

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Pam J

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9:16 am on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Michael, thank goodness you are okay. Nothing is as scary as having an accident on an interstate. The same thing happened to me on I-75. The person behind me was looking at something else and didn't see that we had stopped. My car was totalled, but I was okay. Glad you are too.

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Myra Coker Crawford

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9:21 pm on Saturday, May 14, 2011

Glad all is well! That is majorly scary!! I said a quick thank you to Him myself.

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Michael Stone

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12:31 pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011

Thank you everyone for your support. I'll just be excited when I have a permanent ride again.

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