

# Two Teens Buckled Up and Lived.



## What happened to this truck?

Two teens were driving this 2005 Ford F-250 King Ranch Edition pickup on a rural road in Bell County early one morning in February 2009 when one of the front tires blew. The truck went out of control, slammed into a culvert, flipped end over end, hit a rock embankment, and landed upside down on the side of the road. No other cars were involved in the wreck.



## Were the driver and passenger OK?

Seat belts and airbags are credited with saving the lives of both boys. EMS rushed them to the emergency room where they were treated for minor injuries. Ethan had a sprained ankle. Trey sprained his wrist, injured his shoulder and needed 12 staples and stitches for cuts on his head. The day after surviving the crash, Ethan and Trey showed their hogs at the Bell County annual livestock show and took home the Grand Reserve prize.



## Who was inside?

Ethan Mitchell, 17, was driving when the crash happened. Trey Mohler, 14, was asleep in the passenger's seat. When the truck finally came to a stop, both boys were hanging upside down, held in their seats by their seat belts. Ethan unbuckled himself, released his friend, and then kicked out a window so they could escape from the wreckage.



## Where is the truck now?

With support from the Texas Department of Transportation, this truck is making its way across Texas to remind motorists to always buckle up. If pickup truck drivers and passengers are involved in a rollover crash, they are 80 percent more likely to escape death or serious injury if they are wearing seat belts. Because Ethan and Trey buckled up and also were protected by air bags, they were able to walk away from this wreck.

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