

He jumps out his car and rushes to the scene as a truck is turned over on its side.

"I need you all to help me! My best friend is in this truck, and he is paralyzed from the waist down, and I can't get him out, and he's knocked out!" says the driver.

Immediately, he knows he must help the man still lying inside of the vehicle. "How can we possibly get this man out of the truck safely?" he thinks to himself.

In their last effort to help the driver's friend still trapped in the vehicle, four men try to flip the truck back on its wheels.

About this time, he steps back to re-assess the vehicle. He is right in front of the gas tank. Then, out of nowhere, the truck explodes.

He races over to help the driver pull the paralyzed man from the burning truck. While he never thought his selfless actions would put him in the intensive care unit for 25 days with burns over 19 percent of his body, he knew that he made the right decision in an effort to help someone else live, and his mind, that was enough.

In Jackson County, Mississippi, the name "Chip Cole" is synonymous with being a good Samaritan, and a good Samaritan indeed he is.

Cole, born and raised in Pascagoula, Mississippi, has always been one to understand the importance of life as well the need to help others.

"I have an affinity for human life, and I was raised that you help people if you can," said Cole.

Cole, a civics and economics teacher, said that one of the most valuable things in life is being able to create joy, even in a work environment.

"I think what's most important to me is creating your own happiness," said Cole. "Really, I don't mean that in any one particular thing, but finding the positive and the happy in your environment in your life, and that is creating it in the sense of the term, you know, making the best of the situation."

From a young age, Cole learned many life lessons from his father that helped him understand the principles of responsibility. As he recalled a story about a hurricane threatening Pascagoula, he said that one of the biggest lessons he had to learn was responsibility.

Cole said he went down to his family's pier to retrieve everything from the outdoor kitchen in case it flooded. "I can remember thinking to myself, 'So this is what the responsibilities are of being a husband and being a dad at his age.' He's been doing all of this stuff every single time

something like this comes up, and I've had no idea, and I genuinely didn't."

Cole's wife, Anna, said although she appreciates Chip's helpful spirit, it is hard for her to not become overprotective.

"It just makes me anxious, and anything that can be a dangerous situation, I just don't want him to do, which is not in his nature. It's very hard to stop somebody that is a helpful person," said Anna.

When Cole was a young man, he developed a passion for Land Cruisers. He bought his first Land Cruiser, a 1986 model, in 2000 with his father. Since then, he has purchased several more Land Cruisers. To this day, Chip frequently drives around town in his Cruisers, occasionally going out in the woods to ride around.

Chip Cole, a jack of all trades, has also owned two restaurants in Starkville. He believes those two business gave him the hardest life lessons he ever has to learn.

"People say all the time that good help is hard to find, and if you want it done right, do it yourself, things like that," said Cole. "Learning at the age of 24, 23 years old, to be responsible with that kind of money, grows you up very quickly, especially when perhaps your business partner is not as responsible and honest with those things as you were."

Anna Cole said she feels as though his generosity and willingness to help other most definitely came from his parents, as they were always very generous with their time and money. She said Chip's father would always carry a \$100 bill in his wallet during Christmas and give it to someone he felt needed it.

Although Chip had to overcome many obstacles throughout life, it never stopped him from seeking joy.

"We try to create our happiness within that, and I think that if more people tried to find and hold on to the positivity in their life rather than letting the negativity pull them down, things could be exponentially different in the world," said Cole.

Service Journalism Page

1. Chip Cole, my personality profile subject, said he loves watching baseball and traveling.
2. Chip Cole said that the dean of admissions for Mississippi State told him he should consider working in the trades at Ingalls since he believed he wouldn't succeed in college.
3. Chip Cole also said to never go into business with a friend. He said they are no longer friends because of it.
4. Chip Cole got his associates degree from East Mississippi Community College.
5. Anna Cole said that she made Chip go back to college at University of Southern Miss for his bachelor's degree.

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Sources

Chip Cole

Anna Cole

Jared Crocker

<https://www.sunherald.com/news/local/counties/jackson-county/article107709542.html>

Data/Research Page

1. Before I got my sources, I asked my mother if she had any coworkers who would be interesting enough for the personality profile.
2. I also did my personality profile on a source that I used from my News 5 article.
3. I got some of my questions I asked from a news article he was in pertaining to the car accident on the Sun Herald.
4. I used the Sun Herald article as background knowledge about my subject.
5. I asked Jared Crocker, one of Chip's lifelong friends, what it was like working with him.