

Under the Trooper's Hat

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In accordance with North Dakota's Century Code 39-10-33.2, pedestrians are obligated to yield to authorized emergency vehicles. When an emergency vehicle, whether it is a police cruiser, firetruck, or ambulance, approaches with distinct audible signals of sirens or bells and the visual display of flashing lights in blue, white, or red; pedestrians must allow the vehicle the right of way. However, this requirement does not absolve emergency vehicle drivers from their responsibility to operate their vehicles with utmost caution to ensure the safety of all road users, including pedestrians. Even when a pedestrian yields the right of way, emergency vehicle drivers must exercise caution to avoid any potential collisions with them.

North Dakota Century Code 39-10.1-02 extends traffic laws to individuals on bicycles. While bicyclists are afforded the same rights as motor vehicle drivers, they also must comply with stipulated regulations to include yielding to emergency vehicles.

When an authorized emergency vehicle approaches with its flashing lights in blue, white, or red; drivers of all other vehicles, including bicycles, are obliged to yield the right of way. Bicyclists must maneuver their bicycle to the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway, to ensure intersections are cleared, and come to a complete stop. The bicycle driver must remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has safely passed, unless directed otherwise by a law enforcement officer at the scene.

These laws are crafted with the aim of promoting safety and fostering a culture of orderly behaviors among all road users, regardless of the mode of transportation. Whether traveling on foot, bicycle, or in a motor vehicle, following these laws and regulations ensures that every journey is undertaken with due regard for the safety and well-being of all roadway users.

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