

North Dakota State University

Pedestrian Safety

I. Introduction

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) announces that **on average, a pedestrian is killed in a traffic crash every 120 minutes and injured in a traffic crash every 9 minutes.** With these facts in mind it is imperative that we all take personal responsibility for our safety and follow a few important tips.

II. Purpose

These guidelines and City of Fargo laws are available to provide minimum health and safety information for pedestrians.

III. Goals

To recognize and understand common traffic rules, to understand the importance of obeying traffic laws, and to reduce the risk of injury and death by learning and practicing pedestrian safety. To take personal responsibility for one's actions.

IV. Pedestrian Safety Tips

- A. Cross the street at **marked crosswalks or at intersections**, and observe traffic-control signals.
- B. Remember to look out for bicyclists when you are not in a crosswalk or are not crossing at an intersection.
- C. Make eye contact with oncoming motorists and cyclists, and indicate your intention to cross.
- D. Watch for turning vehicles and make sure the driver sees you and will stop for you.
- E. Look across all lanes you must cross. Just because one motorist stops, do not presume the drivers in the other lanes can see you and will stop for you.
- F. As a pedestrian **be observant**--avoid cell phone use, listening to your ipod, or other actions that would distract you from your surroundings.
- G. Stay to the right on shared pathways, and if walking alongside a road without sidewalks, always walk or jog facing traffic.
- H. **It is very important to remember that University Drive, 12th Avenue North, 18th Street North, and the streets around the downtown buildings are NOT campus streets, and you must follow Fargo City Ordinance. Vehicles do not yield to pedestrian traffic in these areas! Be smart, be considerate, pay attention, and stay safe!**

V. [City of Fargo laws for pedestrians](#)

8-0701. Pedestrians subject to traffic-control signals. Pedestrians shall be subject to traffic-control signals as heretofore declared in §§ 8-0405 and 8-0406 of this chapter, but at all other places pedestrians shall have the rights and be subject to the restrictions stated in this article.

8-0702. Right-of-way of pedestrians at regulated intersection. No vehicle shall enter a crosswalk where traffic is regulated by a traffic officer or a system of traffic-control signals until pedestrians who have properly commenced to cross the street have completed their passage across in front of such vehicle, and any vehicle permitted to turn to either right or left shall yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians who are proceeding on crosswalks in a direction authorized by the officer or traffic signal, and failure to yield such right-of-way shall be a violation of this section.

8-0703. Right-of-way of pedestrians when intersection is not regulated.

- A. Where traffic-control signals are not in place or in operation, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way, slowing down or stopping if need be to yield to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.
- B. No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield.
- C. Whenever any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake or pass such stopped vehicle.

8-0704. Pedestrians to use right half of crosswalks. Pedestrians shall move, whenever practicable, upon the right half of crosswalks.

8-0705. Blind person's right-of-way. Blind pedestrians, when carrying a white cane or stick held out horizontally in the direction they desire to travel over any crosswalks on any street, avenue, alley, or other public highway in the city, shall have the right-of-way over all other pedestrians and vehicles except police and fire apparatus, except that all blind persons at intersections governed by traffic-control devices shall be subject to the same rules as apply to other pedestrians.

Any driver of a vehicle or operator of a motor-driven vehicle or a pedestrian who is not blind who approaches or comes in contact with a blind person upon the streets of the city or with any blind person carrying a white cane or stick shall, if conditions of traffic or safety of the blind person shall require, immediately stop and take such precaution, before proceeding, as may be necessary to avoid accident or injury to or be necessary to protect the blind person.

The words "blind pedestrian" or "blind person" as used in this section shall mean persons wholly or partially blind so as to require mechanical, human, or other aid in the use of the streets of the city

8-0706. When pedestrian shall yield right-of-way. Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

8-0707. Prohibited crossing.

- A. Between adjacent intersections at which traffic-control signals are in operation, pedestrians shall not cross at any place except on a crosswalk.
- B. No pedestrian shall cross a roadway other than on a crosswalk in any business district in the city.

8-0708. Obedience of pedestrians to railroad signals. No pedestrians shall pass through, around, over, or under any gate or barrier at a railroad grade crossing or bridge while such gate or barrier is closed or being opened or closed.

8-0709. Pedestrians traveling along roadways.

- A. Where sidewalks are provided it shall be unlawful for any pedestrian to walk, or otherwise travel, along and upon an adjacent roadway.
- B. Where sidewalks are not provided, any pedestrian walking or otherwise traveling along and upon a highway shall, when practicable, walk only on the left side of the roadway or its shoulder facing traffic which may approach from the opposite direction.

8-0710. Pedestrians soliciting rides or business.

- A. No person shall stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride, employment, or business from the occupant of any vehicle.
- B. No person shall stand on or in proximity to a street or highway for the purpose of soliciting the watching or guarding of any vehicle while parked or about to be parked on a street or highway.

8-0711. Blocking passage of pedestrians. Vehicles shall not stop on a crosswalk so as to interfere with the passage of pedestrians.

8-0712. Pedestrians not to obstruct traffic. Three or more persons shall not stand together or near each other in any street or any footpath, sidewalk, or alley in the city, so as to obstruct the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles; and any person or persons so standing shall move on immediately and cease to obstruct said places after being requested so to do by the chief of police or any police officer of the city.

8-0713. Right to cross streets safely--Interference with vehicles. The roadbeds of streets are intended primarily for vehicles but pedestrians have the right to cross them in safety, and all drivers of vehicles shall exercise all proper care not to injure pedestrians. Pedestrians when crossing a street shall not carelessly or maliciously interfere with the passing of vehicles.

8-0714. Playing on streets prohibited. No person shall play upon the streets, avenues, alleys, or public grounds of the city except upon such grounds or streets as may be provided for such purposes, and this section shall apply to both business and residential areas.

8-0715. Drivers to exercise due care. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this article, every driver of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian upon any roadway and shall give warning by sounding the horn when necessary and shall exercise proper precaution upon observing any child or any confused or incapacitated person upon a roadway