	<b>West Fargo Fire &amp; Rescue Policy and Procedure</b>			Authorized by:  D. Fuller Fire Chief
	Subject: MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATIONS			
	Section: ADMIN	Date Authorized:	Date Reviewed:	
	Number: 108	8/5/2015	11/1/2017	

**Intent**

The intent of this policy is to provide guidance for the operation of West Fargo Fire Department vehicles in the emergent and non-emergent mode.


**Policy**

**1. Seatbelts will be used at all times.**

- The driver of the vehicle is responsible to ensure that all members have their seatbelts on before they move the vehicle.
- When responding to a call, if your seatbelt interferes with donning of SCBA, the seatbelt takes priority and will be used.
- There will be a zero tolerance policy for seatbelt violations. The driver, the officer and the member violating the policy will all be held accountable.

**2. Operation of Emergency Vehicles in the Emergent Mode**

- When operating West Fargo Fire Department vehicles in the emergent mode, operators shall be governed by North Dakota Century Code 39-10-03 (see attached).
- Operators and Officers will ensure that safety is the first priority when operating vehicles in the emergent mode.
- When entering an intersection the vehicle will be traveling at a slow enough rate of speed to stop if necessary to ensure all cross traffic is aware and relinquishes the right of way before proceeding through the intersection.
- At no time will West Fargo Fire Department Vehicles exceed **10 MPH** over the posted speed limit. Road conditions, traffic conditions and weather conditions must be taken into account and may require a slower rate of speed.
- When responding to an emergency there is a strong tendency to drive too fast. **Red lights and sirens do not give you the right-of-way, they only ask for it.**
- Audible Signal – the siren is the legal warning device according to state law and should be used when appropriate. Air horns may be used in conjunction with the siren. An air horn is not a legal emergency warning device and should not be used to the exclusion of the siren.
- Visual Signal – the emergency lights the vehicle is equipped with constitute the visual signal. And all such lights will be used during an emergency response. The four-way emergency flashers should be used for parking only to maintain the operation of the turn signals during a response.
- State law requires visual signals during all emergency responses and audible signals when appropriate. When late at night and not traffic is present, or on long highway responses, the siren may be turned off at the discretion of the driver and officer.
- Operators of the West Fargo Fire Department vehicles shall remain calm and in control of their emotions at all times. Any interaction with the public will be in a helpful professional manner.

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**3. Operations of West Fargo Fire Department Vehicles in the Non- Emergent Mode**

- When operating emergency vehicles in the non-emergent mode or during support vehicles, all traffic laws and regulations apply and must be obeyed.
- All West Fargo Fire Department operators will practice defensive during at all times.
- Safety is the first priority at all times.


**4. Exiting and Backing into station**

- Operators are responsible for unplugging apparatus, ensuring seat belt use prior to moving apparatus, and ensuring garage doors are completely open prior to moving apparatus
- Operators shall exit the station slowly, ensuring the apparatus is completely clear of the building prior to turning
- Operators of Ladder 7660 will ensure a spotter, equipped with a wireless headset, is in place to facilitate the bucket of the apparatus in clearing the doors of the station
- Backing of Apparatus will be done only when absolutely necessary and a spotter will be used.
- When backing apparatus into the station, a spotter will be used. (This rule applies only to large apparatus; support vehicles and grass trucks are exempt.)

**5. General Rules**

- Operators may have their driving privileges revoked at any time by an officer if he or she feels they are not operating in a safe manner.
- Operators will give 100% of their attention to the task of driving; cell phone use, eating or drinking, or any other activity that may distract the driver is prohibited.
- When operating a vehicle without an officer present, the senior firefighter will be responsible for the safe operation of that vehicle.
- Violations of this policy may result in a letter of reprimand, revocation of all WFFD driving privileges for six months to one year, demotion or dismissal depending on the severity of the offense.
- All operators must possess a valid North Dakota driver’s license.
- In the event of an accident or injury involving a department vehicle, the officer in charge must be notified.
- Operators involved in a serious accident will submit to a drug and alcohol screening

**Attached: North Dakota Century Code.**

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## NORTH DAKOTA CENTURY CODE

### 39-10-03. Class A authorized emergency vehicles.

1. The driver of a class A authorized emergency vehicle may:
  - a. Park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this chapter.
  - b. Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation.
  - c. Exceed the speed limit so long as the driver does not endanger life or property.
  - d. Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.
2. The exceptions herein granted to a class A authorized emergency vehicle apply only
  - a. When the authorized emergency vehicle is in pursuit of or apprehension of a violator or a suspected violator requiring the use of these exemptions.
  - b. When the class A authorized emergency vehicle is being operated in response to a reported emergency involving a possible personal injury, death, or damage to property, and when giving adequate warning by use of a flashing red or combination red and white lights that are visible under normal atmospheric conditions for at least five hundred feet [152.4 meters] and if appropriate, giving audible signal by siren or airhorn. A law enforcement vehicle that is otherwise a class A authorized emergency vehicle may display a flashing blue light in addition to and under the same conditions as the other colors allowed in this subdivision.
  - c. In any instance when the head of a law enforcement agency deems advisable within the area of that person's jurisdiction for the protection of person and property and when giving audible signal by siren or when giving adequate warning by use of a flashing red or combination red and white lights which are visible under normal atmospheric conditions for at least five hundred feet [152.4 meters]. A law enforcement vehicle that is otherwise a class A authorized emergency vehicle may display a flashing blue light in addition to and under the same conditions as the other colors allowed in this subdivision.
3. An emergency vehicle may not display or permit to be displayed any red lamp except when operated on official business.
4. Any law enforcement officer as provided in paragraph 2 of subdivision a of subsection 2 of section 39-01-01 having stopped another vehicle along a highway, and while still involved in that incident, or any other related activity, may use amber lights, visible under normal atmospheric conditions for at least five hundred feet [152.4 meters], for the purpose of maintaining traffic flow.

### 39-10-03.1. Class B authorized emergency vehicles.

1. The driver of a class B authorized emergency vehicle may:
  - a. Park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this chapter.
  - b. Exceed the speed limit so long as the driver does not endanger life or property during the time of a local or national disaster.
  - c. Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.
2. The exceptions herein granted to a class B authorized emergency vehicle apply only when the authorized emergency vehicle is displaying an amber light visible under normal atmospheric conditions for a distance of five hundred feet [152.4 meters] in any direction, and:

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- a. When it is necessary for the authorized emergency vehicle to use these exemptions for the immediate protection of life or property;
  
- b. When an authorized emergency vehicle is stopped on a highway for the purpose of performing a duty as required of the driver; or
  
- c. When traveling at a speed slower than the normal flow of traffic.

**39-10-03.2. Class C authorized emergency vehicles.**

All class B specifications apply to class C authorized emergency vehicles except that a blue flashing light must be displayed in place of an amber light as provided in section 39-10-03.1.