

Staying Safe as a REALTOR®
Make a Year-Round Commitment to Safety

Important Safety Tips for REALTORS:

- Use common sense at all times and follow your personal instincts.
- Walk confidently.
- Carry a whistle, mace or shriek alarm.
- Always meet first-time clients in your office.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Use the buddy system when showing a property, especially vacant property.
- Be smart when advertising open houses. Do not list your home phone number.
- Leave word with someone at the office of where and with whom your appointments will be.
- Never carry a key ring/case with your name or address on it. If your keys are ever lost or stolen, this information could be used to burglarize your home or car.
- When using the phone, stay alert, keep the call short and simple. The less attentive you are to your surroundings, the more thieves view you as a target.
- Place wallets, purses or any other valuables on the side of your car seat, never on the seat next to you. Do not set yourself up for a “smash and grab” or car jacking.
- Keep your car well-maintained to avoid breaking down in remote areas.
- When receiving an inquiry by phone at your office or at home, get the name and number of the person calling and ask if you can call that person back in a few minutes. (Confirm the inquiry.)
- By making a couple of phone calls or checking the city directory or phone book, you may feel more comfortable about meeting a prospect.

Explain to buyers that the above is necessary for your protection as well as the seller. If you feel uncomfortable, let your instincts rule—reschedule or cancel the appointment.

Many real estate office managers routinely discuss **safety practices** with their agents but few have any hard and fast rules and agents themselves say that they often knowingly take risks because it is the only way they can conduct business. Local real estate boards conduct occasional safety courses and some, such as the Ohio Board of Realtors, have published booklets on crime prevention for their membership. The National Board of Realtors' (NAR) has designated the week in September as annual **REALTOR' Safety Week**, stating that more than 54 percent of all respondents to a recent survey reported that they had experienced safety concerns, incidents, or harassing situations on the job.

Law enforcement officials, real estate boards, real estate trainers, and others routinely advise agents to observe some common sense **safety precautions**.