



SAFETY MOMENT

Agent Personal Safety Tips:

1. Know your prospects. Never meet a first-time prospect at a property based only on a phone call. Meet at your office first. Also, introduce that person to at least two other people in your office. Criminals are less likely to take action if they think they'll be recognized.
2. Create a distress code. When you feel threatened, you can use this seemingly benign verbal code in a phone conversation to your coworkers, friends, or family. The code is a tip-off that you're in danger and need help.
3. Don't be too flashy. Wear conservative clothing and avoid ostentatious jewelry that could make you a target for theft. Real estate professionals often market themselves with photos, which can be risky, as perpetrators have been known to scan real estate photos looking for victims.
4. Be in the driver's seat. Always use your own car when showing a property so you stay in control. If a client insists on driving, let him take his own car and follow behind you.
5. Don't get stranded. Always keep your car's gas tank filled above a quarter-tank. Also, keep the following safety tools in the car: A charged cell phone, a battery jumper, a spare tire, and a roadside emergency kit that includes a flashlight and flares.
6. Keep an eye on the exit. During home showings, never walk into a room first. Instead, allow potential buyers to explore areas of the home on their own, with you following behind to answer their questions.
7. Check in often. Let your office and family know when, where, and with whom your appointments will be and when you expect to return. Make it your policy to check in every hour when you're with clients. If you don't call to check in, the office should call you right away.
8. Never say you're alone. If you encounter an individual while working late at the office, never indicate to that person that you are by yourself. Say something like, "My supervisor will be right with you and should be able to assist you." Likewise, if you're meeting a customer at a home for a showing, never say anything about the home being "vacant." Make it seem as though other people may be there.

Source: Realtor.org