

REALTOR® Safety Tips

Have office procedures in place to record clients

Use one of the several safety timer applications available through your MARIS membership, displayed in the image above.

Agree on an office distress code

Create a voice distress code, a secret word or phrase that is not commonly used but can be worked into any conversation for cases where you feel that you are in danger. Use this if the person you are with can overhear the conversation but you don't want to alarm them. Example: "Hi, this is Jennifer. I'm with Mr. Henderson at the Elm Street listing. Could you email me the Blue File?"

Plan ahead with escape routes

Upon entering an open house property for the first time, check each room, and determine at least two "escape" routes. Make sure all deadbolt locks are unlocked for easy access to the outside.

Indicate you are not alone

If you encounter an individual while working late or alone in your office, indicate to that person that you are not alone. Say something like, "Let me check with my supervisor to see whether she's able to see you now."

Have a lifeline, look engaged

If you find yourself to be the last one in an open house and your car is not in the immediate vicinity of the venue, then make a phone call as you walk. Assailants will be less willing to attack if you are in mid conversation with another person. Give your best friend a call; they would love to hear about your day.

Rely on good neighbors

There is always that one neighbor that watches all the activity on the street. Inform a neighbor that you will be hosting an open house and ask if he or she would keep an eye and ear open for anything out of the ordinary.

Don't get blocked-in

When showing property or meeting someone, park your car in front of the property rather than in the driveway. You will avoid having your car blocked in, you'll have an easier time escaping in your vehicle, and you will attract lots of attention running and screaming to your car at the curb area.