

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

LEARN FROM OTHERS' EXPERIENCES

Every year, REALTORS® around the country are threatened, robbed, or physically or sexually assaulted while fulfilling the everyday requirements of their jobs. Some even lose their lives. By learning from these unfortunate and sometimes tragic incidents, we REALTORS® can make adjustments to the way we do business and avoid violent crimes.

We've gathered a few examples from across America.

CALIFORNIA

A 70-year-old male real estate agent was attacked while showing a vacant house in Fresno. The agent was alone in the house with two men who reportedly beat him with a blunt object and stole his wallet.

(Source: The Fresno Bee)

A female Napa real estate agent was assaulted by what she thought was a potential buyer. The agent received a call on her cell phone from a man saying he was interested in looking at property she had listed. She arrived at the property, a vacant new house, in midafternoon, and was turning on the lights when a man wearing a ski mask entered the home. "I heard the front door open and close," recalled the agent. "I was in the kitchen. I came around the corner and saw this big guy wearing a ski mask about five feet away from me." The suspect grabbed her and the two struggled. The man began to drag the agent toward the front door when she bit the man in the hand and he fled.

(Source: The Napa Valley Register)

GEORGIA

Within 11 days, three female real estate agents in the same county reported separate robberies. Each incident occurred in the evening, and each agent was tied up and robbed at gunpoint by a man and woman. The couple contacted each agent by phone. In one incident, the REALTOR® picked up the couple and drove them to a property. In each case the agent's car was stolen and has not been recovered.

(Source: 11 Alive News)

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MISSOURI

A female Kansas City agent was abducted and robbed by a supposed client. The woman showed the man several houses, after which he pulled a gun on her and forced her to drive to several banks and stores in the area to withdraw money. After getting the money, the real estate agent was let go. Local police reported that since the robbery, the man has tried calling the real estate agent and demanding more money.

(Source: The Kansas City Channel)

A man suspected of attacking a 24-year-old female real estate agent in Missouri was arrested less than a week later in Texas, posing as a prospective buyer and viewing a home with an agent. In the Missouri attack, the agent was handcuffed in the basement of a home she was showing, sexually assaulted and robbed of cash, credit cards and her wedding ring. Police apprehended the suspect and found duct tape, knives, handcuffs, a BB gun and multiple REALTOR® business cards in his car. The real estate agent he was with in Texas was unharmed.

(Source: St. Louis Dispatch)