



Safety on the Road

As a REALTOR®, you spend a great deal of time in your car. These tips may help protect you from dangerous situations while in your car:

- Your office should keep a file on each agent's vehicle, including the make, year, model, color and license plate number. Keep this confidential information in a secure location.
- Always take your own car for showings. When you leave your car, lock it.
- Wear a visible company identification badge at all times. It is also best to drive a vehicle clearly marked with your company name. These will be invaluable for identification if you need to get assistance.
- When you're alone getting into your car, the first thing you should do is lock the doors. Be observant when approaching your car, looking underneath and in the back seat before entering.
- Keep roadside breakdown essentials in the trunk, including flares, a tire inflation canister, basic hand tools, spare belts and hoses, a flashlight and a first aid kit. Have your vehicle maintained regularly and learn how to change a flat tire.
- Dress for the weather. If your car breaks down or you need to escape a dangerous situation on foot, you could find yourself exposed to harsh weather conditions for an extended period of time. In the winter, bring a coat with you and keep a blanket in the trunk of your car, along with some spare warm clothes.
- If you're driving at night and are approached by a vehicle with blue lights, exercise caution. Call 9-1-1 to identify the vehicle, turn on your flashers to acknowledge that you see the police care and keep moving until you're in a well-lit area. A legitimate law enforcement official will understand your caution.

Parking Lot Safety

- If you're accosted in a parking lot and forced to drive, don't leave the area. If you're in a crowded area, run your vehicle into another one or into something else, such as a building or a tree. You'll attract attention and that's the last thing a perpetrator wants. If you're confronted at your car, throw your car key in one direction and run screaming in the opposite direction. For this reason, keep your car key separate from your other keys.
- As you walk through a parking lot, observe those around you. Notice if there are strangers sitting in parked cars or standing in your pathway. If so, choose an alternate route and avoid them.
- Always be alert and aware. Have your car keys in your hand and be ready to unlock the door without delay.
- Don't place your purse or package on the roof of the car while loading other items.