

# Nevada REALTORS® Safety Guide



*An exclusive guide for  
Nevada REALTORS®  
members*

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## REALTOR® Safety

**I**ncreased awareness on this issue has led the real estate industry to respond. New policies are being promoted to change the way REALTORS® work with new clients. These efforts will protect both agents and consumers. Some key examples are: new clients are asked to meet agents in the office for an initial consultation, potential buyers are asked to present identification upon meeting an agent and get lender pre-approval before viewing properties.

It's important to understand the large majority of consumers are honorable, but REALTORS® must also remember the old adage "Better to be safe than sorry," alluding to the small percentage of the public that has to be guarded against.

This is a list of safeguards all REALTORS® should adhere to:

- Be careful with personal info
- Verify customer information
- Enlist a coworker for safety measures
- Announce showings
- Scout locations early
- Keep phone in hand
- Keep customer in sight
- Pay attention to exits
- Take a self-defense class
- Trust your gut

Nevada REALTORS® is committed to protecting its members and maintaining their personal safety. By educating REALTORS® about potential threats and providing them with resources to protect themselves, Nevada REALTORS® can help members stay safe.



## - Partners In Real Estate Safety - Security Steps for Companies

Real estate brokerages are often in the best position to help keep practitioners out of harm's way. Here are some effective ideas you might try to keep safety first in the minds of your salespeople.

- Establish safety measures. Initiate office safety strategies such as the buddy system. Give agents option to leave 'important info' cards with brokers so that those can be shared with law enforcement if needed.
- Have office visitors sign a registration book or prospect card. In large offices issue an in-house ID tag or access card to salespeople and staff that can be worn at all times.
- Establish a secure location in your office where staff can go in case of a threatening situation.
- Make sure private offices and work areas aren't accessible to visitors. The less outsiders know about the inner workings of your office, the better chance staff members have to escape in an emergency.
- Suggest safety measures for agents, such as notifying a friend, co-worker or family member informing them of location and how long the plan is to be on location.



## Safety checklist for hosting an Open House or showing property

1. Notify a co-worker or a family member/friend (for business and off hours showings) of your plans. Make plans to check in with the designated person at designated times and a protocol if contact at the specific time is not met.
2. Check cell phone strength and signal prior to the open house/property viewing. Have emergency numbers programmed on speed dial. Carry an extra, fully charged cell phone battery.
3. Once at the property, turn on the lights and open the curtains. These are not only sound safety procedures, but also great marketing tactics.
4. Determine several escape routes that can be used in case of an emergency. Make sure all dead-bolt locks are unlocked to facilitate a faster escape.
5. Make sure that if a back-door escape is used-escape from the backyard is possible. Frequently high fences surround yards that contain swimming pools or hot tubs

6. Inform a neighbor the property will host a showing and ask if he or she would keep an eye and ear open for anything out of the ordinary.

7. Call the local police department and ask them to have a squad car drive by during your open-house hours.



8. When clients/prospective buyers begin to arrive, jot down their car descriptions, license numbers and physical descriptions.

9. When showing property, always walk behind a prospective buyer. Direct them; don't lead them. Say, for example, "The kitchen is on your left," and gesture for them to go ahead of you.

10. Listen to your instincts. If a situation feels unsafe or uncomfortable, get out of it - RUN if needed.



*"You'll never stop attacks. They'll always occur. In almost all attacks, there was pre-attack surveillance by the attacker. Understand that ... Show would-be attackers you are concerned about security. Portray a strong personal image. Make attackers move on to something else."*

**Bill Masters**  
Author - 'The Gift of Fear'

## REALTOR® Safety

It's not pleasant to think about, but even the most safety-conscious real estate professionals might find themselves in a dangerous situation. If this happens, remember that the primary goal in any incident is to escape from the danger and call for help. Try to find a discreet way of removing yourself from the situation, such as saying you need to step outside to make a phone call and then not going back inside.

If an attack does occur, trust yourself and stay as calm as possible. Think rationally and evaluate your options. There is no one right way to respond to a conflict, because each situation is different. The response depends on the circumstances: location of the attack, your personal resources, the characteristics of the assailant and the presence of weapons. There are many strategies that are effective, but you must rely on your own judgment.

Make a conscious effort to get an accurate description of your attacker(s). Even the smallest details may give authorities a clue to finding the suspect. Tell authorities everything you can remember, no matter how small a detail it might be. The more information they have, the more likely your attacker is to be caught.

### NAR Safety Resources

NAR's REALTOR® Safety program helps REALTORS® understand the risks they face through awareness, and empowerment. Go to [NAR.org/safety](http://NAR.org/safety) to read up on its many safety precautions.

