

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

LEARN FROM OTHERS' EXPERIENCES

Every year, agents 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 real estate agents can make adjustments to the way we do business and avoid violent crimes.

We've gathered a few examples from across North America.

Texas

A 53-year-old Texas man is suspected of stealing more than \$20,000 worth of jewelry from a home in the exclusive community of Highland Park. Police say the man posed as a motivated real estate buyer, visiting open houses or actually making an appointment with an agent to see a home. Once inside, he would roam around surreptitiously looking for valuables, preferring jewelry. Police believe he committed similar crimes while looking at homes in Collin County, north of Dallas, but began scouting bigger homes for bigger bling.

(Source: Housing Watch)

www.housingwatch.com/2010/05/19/dallas-crook-poses-as-home-buyer/

Oregon

A real estate agent working late in the model home of a subdivision was tied up and robbed of her ATM card. Deputies say the real estate agent told them the armed robber accosted her as she was leaving, tied her hands behind her back, took the card from her purse, got the personal-identification number from her and then duct-taped her mouth. The card was later retrieved from an ATM machine. Detectives say photos show a man with something covering his face looking into the machine or trying to retrieve something from it. They say the real estate agent managed to get free, suffering minor injuries, and then called 911.

(SOURCE: OregonLive.com)

www.oregonlive.com/washingtoncounty/index.ssf/2009/11/aloha_real_estate_agent_robbed.html

CONTINUED

REALTOR[®] SAFETY

INTRODUCTION

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION Learn from Others' Experiences CONT.,

Manitoba

A Winnipeg real estate agent says she was randomly attacked by a man who tricked her into believing he wanted to purchase some property as part of an elaborate ruse to get her alone. The man, who claimed he wanted to purchase a new home, said he found her name through the Real Estate News, then later said he'd visited her office, saw her picture and thought she was "really good-looking." The woman said she was slightly uncomfortable, but brushed aside that comment while taking him to see several residences. She eventually went to his apartment on the belief she would be writing a purchase offer—but the meeting quickly turned from business to criminal. She fought off his attack and fled. Police executed a search warrant at his home, and discovered he had been conducting disturbing online searches for photos and videos depicting violent sexual attacks against real estate agents. There was also evidence he had been scouring Winnipeg property listings and agents to find the perfect target and location to commit his crime.

(Source: Winnipeg Free Press)

www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/real-estate-agent-tells-trial-of-alleged-sex-assault-94059284.html

California

The body of a male real estate agent was discovered in the living room of a foreclosed home, when another real estate agent arrived to show the home to a client. The agent had been missing for more than three days, after an appointment to show prospective buyers a home. He had been stabbed several times.

(SOURCE: CBS News)

<http://cbs2.com/local/real.estate.agent.2.1092059.html>