

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Learn from Others' Experiences

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

Here are a few examples from across North America.

Ohio

A woman REALTOR® was preparing to close up an open house at about 6 p.m., and was talking on her cell phone to a prospective buyer, when the doorbell rang. She opened the door and found a man wearing a ski mask standing on the step asking to see the house. After asking the man to leave several times, she shut and locked the door. But when she went in the home's garage to lock it, the man grabbed her. She fought off the attack and the man ran away.

(Source: Journal News, February 3, 2009)

www.journal-news.com/search/content/oh/story/news/local/2009/02/03/hjn020409assaultfo.html

New Mexico

A 24-year-old woman accused of posing as a wealthy homebuyer robbed a Santa Fe real estate agent. The female agent told police that she showed the woman, who was wearing a violet-colored burka, two properties, and in the basement of the second residence, the woman drew a gun and threatened to kill her.

The woman forced the agent to drive her to the bank, where the two went inside. The agent withdrew all \$8,000 in her account, and, despite her attempts to alert the teller, the armed woman in the burka took the money and got away. However, she was apprehended by police later.

(SOURCE: Santa Fe New Mexican, April 14, 2008)

www.santafenewmexican.com/Local%20News/Woman-held-in-Realtor-robbery

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INTRODUCTION

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

Nevada

A man broke into a vacant home for sale, and when the real estate agent arrived to have the broken window fixed, he attacked her, beating her and stealing her car. California police caught the suspect after a high-speed chase near Los Angeles several hours after the attack, and identified him as the same person who was caught trespassing at Nellis Air Force Base just a few days before the attack. Police still do not know why the man broke into the property.

(Source: LasVegas Now.com, March 26, 2008)

<http://blogs.lasvegasnow.com/nellis-sunrise/2008/03/26/8075538/>

British Columbia, Canada

Local police are still trying to solve the murder of a young real estate agent in February 2008. The 24-year-old woman was found stabbed to death in a vacant home that she was believed to be showing. She had received a call that day from a woman requesting a showing of the luxury home, and was reportedly met by a man and a woman at the property. The agent's coworkers were quoted as saying she had a "bad feeling" about the appointment.

(SOURCE: Saanich News, February 3, 2009)

www.bclocalnews.com/vancouver_island_south/saanichnews/news/38890469.html