



The Real Estate Safety Council reported that 21 agents were murdered on the job in 2002. 206 agents died as a result of violent assaults from 1982 to 2000. Real Estate is rated one of the highest-risk professions available, but agents can now arm themselves with Mobile Callback. The following details several attacks on real estate agents while on the job.

DALLAS, TEXAS: Joan Malone met with a man posing as a potential buyer. At the second home they toured, he punched her in the jaw, broke her back, choked her into unconsciousness and stabbed her repeatedly. Leaving Joan for dead, he fled in her car.ⁱ

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: Paula Herrington had an appointment to show Tim several homes. It turns out that Tim was on a crime spree and abducted Herrington (the seventh of his victims), sexually assaulted her and then released her two days later in another state.ⁱⁱ

BRENTWOOD, NEW YORK: Maria Garcia was preparing a foreclosed home when a neighbor, Donny Ray Bates, approached her. Donny wanted Maria to take a look at his house and see what she thought about listing it on the market. Eager to get the listing, Maria went inside. Donny beat her and then slit her throat with a knife. She bled to death before anyone knew she needed help.ⁱⁱⁱ

PENNSYLVANIA: Christina Gervasi met with a man she'd worked with for over two months. When they entered the second home, he shut the door behind him, grabbed her and attempted to attack her.^{iv}

BRENTWOOD, OHIO: A convicted rapist posed as a buyer and developed rapport with a saleswoman at a Century 21 office. He called her to meet him at a home and she asked a friend to come along. During the tour, he was able to separate them and attacked the younger with a stun gun.^v

BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON: Michael Emert, 40, a salesperson with Windermere Real Estate was missing. Emert's body was discovered Jan. 4 in the home he had been showing. He had been stabbed to death.^{vi}

CENTRAL ISLIP, NEW YORK: Norberto Ruvio had an appointment to show a foreclosed home. When he arrived, the attacker put a gun to his head, handcuffed him to a pipe and robbed him of his wallet and cell phone. Several hours later, a neighbor answered his cries for help.^{vii}

MINNESOTA: John Novicky and his sister-in-law, Mary Still, posed as a married couple and called agent Roxanne Forstner. They asked her to come tour their home and give them an estimated value. Once Forstner reached the the basement, the attack began. Mary pointed a gun at Roxanne and told her to do as she was told. The agent tried to grab the gun but John put a handcuff on her. The three struggled and Forstner lost control of the gun but escaped from the house leaving behind her shoes, cellular telephone and jewelry.^{viii}

DALLAS, TEXAS: Realtors reported assaults by a gunman during open houses. He allegedly enters the property, talks on a cell phone, and then terrorizes the agent with a gun while committing robbery. The gunman then takes the Realtor's car, drives a short distance and abandons the car.^{ix}

PENNSYLVANIA: Charlotte Fimiano's husband reported her missing on Sept. 11 when she failed to return home. Her body was found the following morning in a somewhat secluded house located about three miles from Fimiano's office. She had been strangled and shot in the head.^x

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA: An agent arrived at a home and was met by two men. Realizing her discomfort, one of the men told her that he was going to get his wife. She felt comfortable enough to enter the home. When she entered, one of the men drew a gun, beat her, and demanded jewelry and money.^{xi}



GEORGIA/FLORIDA: Since the beginning of the year, and twice already in July, a man described as more than 6 feet tall and weighing more than 300 pounds has contacted sales agents and asked them to meet him at homes that are on the market. Once inside the homes, the man overpowers the agents, takes their money and ties them up and leaves them in the house.^{xii}

Time and time again, it's proven that the first thing an attacker is going to do is take away your ability to get help. That's what happened in all of these situations. None of the victims could call for help. No one knew they were in danger. If Mobile Callback had been available to them, it could have saved their lives.

ⁱ Spencer, Mark, Every Realtor's Nightmare: Part 1, On-line posting, Realty Times, November 10, 1997, http://realtytimes.com/news/anpages/19980720_nightmare1.htm

ⁱⁱ Spencer, Mark, Every Realtor's Nightmare: Part 3, On-line posting, Realty Times, July 23, 1998, http://realtytimes.com/rtnews/printpages/19980722_nightmare3.htm.

ⁱⁱⁱ Dougherty, Timothy R., Cops, victims say real estate can be hazardous to your health, On-line posting, Realtor Magazine Online, June 01, 1997, <http://www.realtor.org/rmomag.NSF/pages/CopsvictimTimArchive1997Jun>.

^{iv} Story Behind Safeshow, Inc., On-line posting, Safeshow.com, http://www.safeshow.com/html/safeshow_story.html.

^v Dougherty, Timothy R., Cops, victims say real estate can be hazardous to your health, On-line posting, Realtor Magazine Online, June 01, 1997, <http://www.realtor.org/rmomag.NSF/pages/CopsvictimTimArchive1997Jun>.

^{vi} Cummings, Leslie, Stay Safe, On-line posting, Safe Show, May 01, 2001, http://www.safeshow.com/html/stay_safe.html.

^{vii} Dougherty, Timothy R., Cops, victims say real estate can be hazardous to your health, On-line posting, Realtor Magazine Online, June 01, 1997, <http://www.realtor.org/rmomag.NSF/pages/CopsvictimTimArchive1997Jun>.

^{viii} Colburn, Sarah, 2 Accused of Attacking Real Estate Agent, On-line posting, Safe Show, May 18, 2002, <http://www.safeshow.com/html/2accused.html>.

^{ix} Evans, Blanche, Dallas Agents Robbed During Open Houses, On-line posting, Realty Times, August 09, 2002, http://realtytimes.com/rtapages/20020809_openhouses.htm.

^x Saleswoman's Death Raises Safety Concerns, On-line posting, Safe Show, November 01, 1997, http://www.safeshow.com/html/saleswoman_death.html.

^{xi} Dougherty, Timothy R., Cops, victims say real estate can be hazardous to your health, On-line posting, Realtor Magazine Online, June 01, 1997, <http://www.realtor.org/rmomag.NSF/pages/CopsvictimTimArchive1997Jun>.

^{xii} Real Estate Intelligence Report Vol. 9, No. 29, July 21, 2003