

Safety on the Road

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

- 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.
- Using a mobile phone while driving can cause an accident. For driving safety, purchase a hands-free phone kit for your vehicle. If you must use the phone while driving, this kit turns your mobile phone into a speaker phone. And never attempt to take notes while driving. Pull over and stop in a safe place first.
- Keep roadside breakdown essentials in the trunk, including flares, a tire-inflation canister, basic hand tools, spare belts and hoses, water, a flashlight and a first-aid kit. Have your vehicle inspected regularly, keep it well maintained and learn how to change a flat tire.
- Don't antagonize potentially dangerous drivers by mimicking their gestures or aggressive driving. Just let it go.
- 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.

(Source: *REALTOR® Magazine*, North Carolina Association of REALTORS®)

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One week, for life.