

# SAFETY Article #11: REALTOR® Safety: Knowledge Awareness Empowerment The 10-Second Rule

One of the most common reasons that people find themselves in dangerous situations is that they weren't paying attention. Take a few precious seconds during the course of your day to assess your surroundings.



## Take 2 seconds when you arrive at your destination.

- Is there any questionable activity in the area?
- Are you parked in a well-lit, visible location?
- Can you be blocked in the driveway by a prospect's vehicle?

## Take 2 seconds after you step out of your car.

- Are there suspicious people around?
- Do you know exactly where you're going?

## Take 2 seconds as you walk towards your destination.

- Are people coming and going or is the area unusually quiet?
- Do you observe any obstacles or hiding places in the parking lot or along the street?
- Is anyone loitering in the area?



## Take 2 seconds at the door.

- Do you have an uneasy feeling as you're walking in?
- Is someone following you in?

## Take 2 seconds as soon as you enter your destination.

- Does anything seem out of place?
- Is anyone present who shouldn't be there or who isn't expected?

It takes just 10 seconds to scope out your surroundings and spot and avoid danger. Make this "ten-second scan" a habit in your everyday work as a Real Estate Professional. Then share it with someone else.

(Source: "What You Can Do About Safety," REALTOR® Magazine, September 2000. Courtesy Night Owl/Vector Security, Landover, MD.) This article is part of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®' REALTOR® Safety Resources Kit.