

# 10 Rural Safety Tips

REALTOR® safety in a rural environment includes animals, weather and more. Keep these suggestions in mind when showing rural property.

1. Drive a vehicle that can handle rough terrain and mud.
2. When making an appointment to show rural property, ask if the owner has dogs, if the animals are friendly and what their names are. Ask the owner to put the dogs in a barn, kennel or other shelter if the dogs are not friendly. Or consider asking the owner to be on the premises when you arrive.
3. When driving into a rural area, wait a bit before getting out of the car to give dogs plenty of time to come to your vehicle and adjust. Talk to them out of the window before departing your vehicle.
4. In case of snakes, wear boots and keep them available in your truck or vehicle to wear for protection.
5. During hunting season, wear bright colored clothing and, at least, a bright hat.
6. Always have your phone charged.
7. Know what some of the materials are to make meth and what they look like. If you see evidence of this type of material, leave and contact law enforcement.
8. Have a weather app on your phone that will send a warning in the event of a tornado, hail, blizzard or other weather hazard.
9. Be prepared for winter weather. Have a survival kit in your trunk -- a blanket, extra hats, gloves, boots, non-perishable food and water.
10. Besides giving a colleague, friend or partner a map, address and owner's name, have that person call you 10 minutes after you should have arrived for the appointment; have a code word that would signal a problem, but that wouldn't give away that you are using a code if someone is listening.

And if you feel uncomfortable - your intuition is an asset. Trust your instincts.