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Knoxville realtors warned of suspicious activity

By: **Stoney Sharp**, Reporter
 Date created: 7/5/2007 6:22:46 PM
 Last updated: 7/5/2007 11:01:58 PM

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The Knoxville Area Association of Realtors has a warning for local real estate agents. The group says in the past week, four female real estate agents have received suspicious calls from a potential buyer.

All four agents decided to take a friend along with them to the showing for safety. Once the realtor arrived at the listing, the potential buyer was a no-show.

The association did not have a list of realtors involved nor information about the specific incidences.

However, WBIR spoke with one of the realtors who received a call.

Jean Tavenner, a realtor with Realty Executives in Knoxville, says she received an unusual call last week. Tavenner says a man who went by the name of 'Rick' called her from a restricted cell phone number. The man informed Tavenner that he wanted to tour a two bedroom house she had listed. Tavenner asked the man for the street name or address of the property he wanted to view, but he had no answer. Later, he called again, stating a specific listing he wanted to view.

Tavenner asked her husband to go with her to the listing. During the short trip to the house, she said the potential buyer kept calling. "He called three times on my way there and he wanted to know where I was," she said. "I said I'm on my way."

The caller said he would meet her in the back yard. When the couple arrived, no one was on the property.

"He was probably watching from somewhere and saw a man in the car with me. So, that's when he had a change in plans," said Tavenner.

The association sent out an electronic message to their 5,000 members warning agents of suspicious calls and offering safety tips.

"They should always bring people into the office to meet with them," said Helen Carter with the Knoxville Area Association of Realtors. "Once that individual gets into the office they should take a copy of their picture I.D."

The group also says realtors should let their office know where they're going to be before heading to a showing.

The association has an exhaustive list of safety tips that agents can review on their website.

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