# Assessment of the Geographic Region and Travel Route

Taking the time to assess the geographic region that the worker will be entering and travel route they will be taking is another proactive way of keeping workers safe. Some of this information can be gathered from the local police. Much of the information can only be gathered by conducting a site visit.

The supervisor should:

* Identify the safest route for the worker to reach the client’s premises
* Check with the local police department to determine the crime rate for the geographic location. If the crime rate is considered high, have two workers travel together to provide care.

Use the following pre-travel assessment tool as a guide. Answer the questions in the following sections below. A “no” response indicates elevated risk and appropriate control measures should be considered.

Refer to the [Risk Specific Guidelines and Tips](#_RISK_SPECIFIC_GUIDELINES) section in this handbook for additional hazard control solutions. Share the completed form with workers and clearly communicate risk factors and precautions to be taken.

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| PRE-TRAVEL ASSESSMENT TOOL | | | |
| *Checklist to be completed by supervisor before the worker conducts the initial home visit* | | | |
| TRAVEL ROUTE | | | |
| Risk Identification | **Y/N** | **Suggested Controls** | **Risk-Specific Tips** |
| Has the safest route to get to the client been identified? | Yes  No | Instruct worker to make sure the vehicle windows are closed and all vehicle doors are locked  Click here to enter text. | [**B1: Planning Travel**](#_B1:_Planning_Travel)  [**B2: Travelling by Public Transit**](#_B2:_Travelling_by)  [**B3: Walking in the Community**](#_B3:_Walking_in)  Click here to enter text. |
| Has the crime rate for the location been determined through the local police department? | Yes  No | Click here to enter text. |
| Is the client aware of the approximate time of arrival? | Yes  No | Click here to enter text. |
| PARKING AREA | | | |
| Risk Identification | **Y/N** | **Suggested Controls** | **Risk-Specific Tips** |
| Has the closest and safest parking spot been located? | Yes  No | Click here to enter text. | [**C1: Travelling by Car**](#_C1:_Travelling_by)  [**C2: Safe Driving Practices**](#_C2:_Safe_Driving)  [**C3: What to Do If Confronted by an Aggressive Driver**](#_C3:_What_to)  [**C4: Parking Your Vehicle**](#_C4:_Parking_Your)  Click here to enter text. |
| Do street lamps provide enough light for walking from the parked car or bus route to the entrance, and is there a light in the entrance to the building/home? | Yes  No | Avoid scheduling night visits if possible  Advise worker to park under a streetlight if arriving in the late afternoon or at night  Click here to enter text. |
| Is the entrance visible from the road? | Yes  No | Click here to enter text. |
| INSIDE/OUTSIDE OF DWELLING | | | |
| Risk Identification | **Y/N** | **Suggested Controls** | **Risk-Specific Tips** |
| Has the area been mapped out for potential perpetrator hiding spots (e.g. behind bushes or hedges)? | Yes  No | Click here to enter text. | [**B1: Planning Travel**](#_B1:_Planning_Travel)  [**D1: Personal Attack Tips**](#_D1:_Personal_Attack)  [**D2: Tips for When a Weapon is Involved**](#_D2:_Tips_for)  Click here to enter text. |
| Are there any physical hazards (barriers, broken steps, free-roaming dogs, weapons) and, if so, is there a plan for controlling these hazards during the visit? | Yes  No | Request that the entry area light be on, if there is one  Provide worker with a flashlight if needed  Click here to enter text. |
| If there is a possibility of encountering hazards during the visit, have arrangements been made for a pre-visit and post-visit call to the office, a nurse, the supervisor or, if possible, a “buddy”? | Yes  No | Click here to enter text. |
| Will other people be in the residence during the visit? If so, do you know how many, what their relationship to the client is, whether there any potential for violence, and who will open the door? | Yes  No | Click here to enter text. |
| EMERGENCY EGRESS | | | |
| Risk Identification | **Y/N** | **Suggested Controls** | **Risk-Specific Tips** |
| Does the worker know where the nearest telephone is? Are there emergency phones or pull stations in the building, housing or parking complex? | Yes  No | Encourage worker to carry a cell phone pre-programmed with emergency contact numbers  Click here to enter text. | [**A2: Terminating an Interaction with an Angry Client**](#_A2:_Terminating_an)  [**C5: Returning to your Vehicle**](#_C5:_Returning_to)Click here to enter text. |
| Are there uneven surfaces that might impede a quick exit by the worker? | Yes  No | Click here to enter text. |
| Has the worker determined the safest route for returning to their vehicle? | Yes  No | **Ensure worker is aware to:**  Be observant! Look and listen  Avoid slinging purse or bag over shoulder or around neck  Carry your keys in your hand  Walk around vehicle, and check back seat before unlocking car  Lock doors, keep windows up until underway  Click here to enter text. |

Pre-visit and Pre-travel assessments should ideally be completed within 24 hours before the initial home visit, then followed by a behaviour assessment such as Violence Assessment Tool completed at the beginning of each home visit thereafter – refer to [PSHSA’s Individual Client Risk Assessment Toolkit](http://www.pshsa.ca/workplace-violence/), as needed.