

Hostage Situation

A hostage situation is any situation in which a person or persons are forced to stay in one location by one or more individuals. Weapons are usually in the possession of the hostage taker(s), and hostages are threatened with some degree of bodily harm should they not comply with the directives of the hostage taker(s). Certain demands are usually made of outside officials in return for the release of the hostage(s).

All hostage situations are dangerous events. A hostage taker might be a terrorist, fleeing felon, disgruntled employee (past or present), spouse, drug or alcohol abuser, emotionally disturbed person, trespasser and, on occasion, a student or citizen who is usually angry about some situation and decides to resolve it by taking hostages and making demands to achieve some resolution.

Likewise, the dynamics of a hostage situation vary greatly and no two incidents will be the same.

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Source

U-M Division of Public Safety & Security

U-M Faculty and Staff Assistance Program (FASAP)

U-M Mental Health Work Group (MHWG)

U-M Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

U-M Dean of Students Office (DOFS)

U-M Psychological Clinic

More Information

<http://police.umich.edu/>

<http://www.umich.edu/~mhealth/index.html>

www.uhs.umich.edu

<http://www.umich.edu/~caps/>

<http://umich.edu/~dofs/>

<http://www.psychclinic.org/>

<http://www.umich.edu/~fasap/>

Prevention / Mitigation / Preparedness - Hostage Situation

Maintain records on current restraining orders or protection from abuse documents.

Implement visitor controls.

Educate student, faculty and staff on what to do if taken hostage

Educate student, faculty and staff on when to report suspicious person(s).

Response - Hostage Situation

If you believe someone has been taken hostage, call 911 immediately.

If you are taken hostage:

- Cooperate with hostage taker to the fullest extent possible.
- Under all circumstances, attempt to stay calm and be alert to situations that you can exploit to your advantage. Remember that the primary objective of law enforcement officials is to secure your safe return as quickly as possible.
- Treat the hostage taker as normally as possible.
- Be respectful to hostage taker.
- Ask permission to speak and do not argue or make suggestions.
- Avoid making provocative remarks to your abductors. As noted, they may be unstable individuals who react explosively and are likely to be violent and abusive.
- Try to establish some kind of rapport with your abductors.

Building Incident Responder Guidelines:

- Remain calm.
- Immediately contact 911. Give dispatcher details of situation; description and number of hostages/hostage takers, and exact location of incident.
- Deploy resources as needed to spread word of incident.
- Document all activities.
- Assist DPS with lockdown, evacuation or perimeter control as needed.
- Ensure all appropriate policies and procedures are implemented. Consult with DPS, so that all appropriate notifications (i.e., parents/spouse) are made regarding affected student/person in accordance with Campus policy.

Recovery – Hostage Situation

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): <http://www.umich.edu/~caps/>

Dean of Students Office (DOFS): <http://umich.edu/~dofs/>

Psychological Clinic: <http://www.psychclinic.org/>

Faculty and Staff Assistance Program (FASAP): <http://www.umich.edu/~fasap/>

UM Survivor Homepage: <http://survivor.umich.edu/>