

B. Hostage Situation

Hostage situations are different than active shooter situations because the hostage taker is most interested in using the hostages for bargaining. It is recommended that the following actions be taken, unless the hostage taker starts to actively shoot or threaten the shoot hostages.

- Be patient. Time is on your side. Avoid drastic action.
- The **initial 45 minutes** are the most dangerous. Follow instructions, be alert and be cooperative. Do not make mistakes which could endanger your well-being.
- If you are caught by the intruder and you are not going to fight back, do not look the intruder in the eyes
- Obey all commands.
- Don't speak unless spoken to and then only when necessary.
- Do not talk down to the captor who may be in an agitated state.
- Avoid appearing hostile.
- Remain calm. Avoid speculating. Comply with instructions the best you can. Avoid arguments.
- Expect the unexpected.
- Be observant. You may be released or get the opportunity to escape. The personal safety of others may depend on your memory.
- Be prepared to answer the Police on the phone.
- Attempt to establish rapport with the captor. If medications, first aid or restroom privileges are needed by anyone, say so. The captors in all probability do not want to harm the persons held by them. Such direct action further implicates the captor with additional charges.