Hostage Situation

The university is considered a safe campus. However in the event of an individual holding people against their will, it is important to be familiar with the following procedures to improve the likelihood of a favorable resolution to the situation.

If you hear or see a hostage situation

- Immediately remove yourself from danger if possible
- Notify the police by calling 9-911 (911 from non-campus or cell phones, 286 in the School of Medicine) and provide the following information:
  - Location of incident
  - Number and description of hostage takers
  - Number and description of hostages
  - Your name, location, and phone number

Note: Do not hang up until the dispatcher advises you to disconnect

If you are taken hostage

- Remain calm, be polite and cooperate with your captors
- Speak normally
- Observe the captors and try to memorize their physical traits, clothing or other details that can help provide a description
- Try to establish a relationship with your captors and get them to know you. You want the captor to think of you as a person not as an object. Captors are less likely to harm you if they respect you.
- If forced to present terrorist demands to authorities, state clearly that the demands are from your captors. Avoid making a plea on your own behalf.
- Try to stay low to the ground or behind cover away from windows or doors
- Do not attempt escape unless there is an extremely good chance of survival
- Do not complain, avoid being belligerent and comply with instructions
- Do not draw attention to yourself with sudden body movements, statements, comments or hostile looks
- If possible, dial 911 and leave the connection open with the phone on mute