

## **Hostage Taking**

### **Definition**

Terrorists feel that human lives must be endangered in order for their demands to be met. In a recent study of over 230 incidents of hostage taking, 90% of all victims were released alive.

### **Prevention**

Hostage takers usually "stake out" a location before making an attempt, so:  
Report suspicious activities to security.  
Maintain communications with security.  
Avoid routines.

### **Prevention of Death or Injury**

Employees must be trained to remain calm and not attempt "heroic" actions.

### **Procedures Checklist**

Remain calm.  
Follow instructions.  
Avoid arguments.  
Appear sympathetic with kidnapper's views.  
Most kidnappers are intelligent; do not attempt to fool them if there is even the slightest chance they will see through you.  
Show gratitude for:  
    food  
    comfort  
    hygiene  
Collect information:  
    tire sounds  
    terrain features  
    outside noises  
    distinctive odors  
    distinguish voices  
    differences in motors  
    names  
    descriptions