

## CRIMINAL/CIVIL DISTURBANCE/HOSTAGE

If you are a victim or a witness to any offense, observe a criminal act or suspicious person on campus, dial 9-1-1. The alternate RUPD phone numbers are: New Brunswick 732-932-7111, Newark 973-353-5111 or 973-972-4491, Camden 856-225-6111.

- Note details and supply the dispatcher with any helpful information.
- Everyone can help make the campus a safe place by promptly reporting suspicious or criminal activity.

### If a CIVIL DISTURBANCE or RIOT is in progress:

- Keep a safe distance from any crowd activities that appear unsafe.
- Secure your area, lock doors and windows.
- Avoid confrontation with crowd participants.
- If police are not already present, report details of the event to RUPD.

### If you are involved in a HOSTAGE SITUATION:

- The initial capture phase presents your best opportunity to escape; so if possible, avoid becoming a hostage in the first place.
- Should you be taken hostage, your primary goal is to **stay alive**.
- As quickly as possible, try to assess the intent of the hostage taker (i.e., financial gain/ransom, terrorist/political motives, or to cause harm), this will help in deciding the best course of action.
- If taken as a hostage, attempt to gain control over panic reactions and maintain a calm and clear-headed composure. Hostages who are hysterical or overly emotional draw attention to themselves. Control impulsive behavior and avoid overt resistance.
- Comply with the hostage taker(s) instructions. Attempt to calm other hostages.
- Do not antagonize or threaten the captor.
- Eye contact may appear to be a challenge to the hostage taker(s) domination, especially in the early stages.
- Be observant; note the hostage taker(s) descriptions, speech and behaviors.
- As time passes, attempt to show the captor(s) your humanity by fostering communication on nonthreatening topics such as family or interests, but avoid political, religious and other potentially sensitive issues.
- Be aware for possible escape opportunities, but attempt an escape **ONLY** if you are reasonably certain that remaining a hostage will likely lead to your being injured or killed if you remain a hostage.
- If there is a rescue attempt, follow the instructions of emergency responders (i.e., lie down, keep still, identify yourself), if you are unsure of what to do, stay low and ensure that the emergency responders can see your empty hands. The rescuers will need to be able to separate the hostages from the hostage takers.