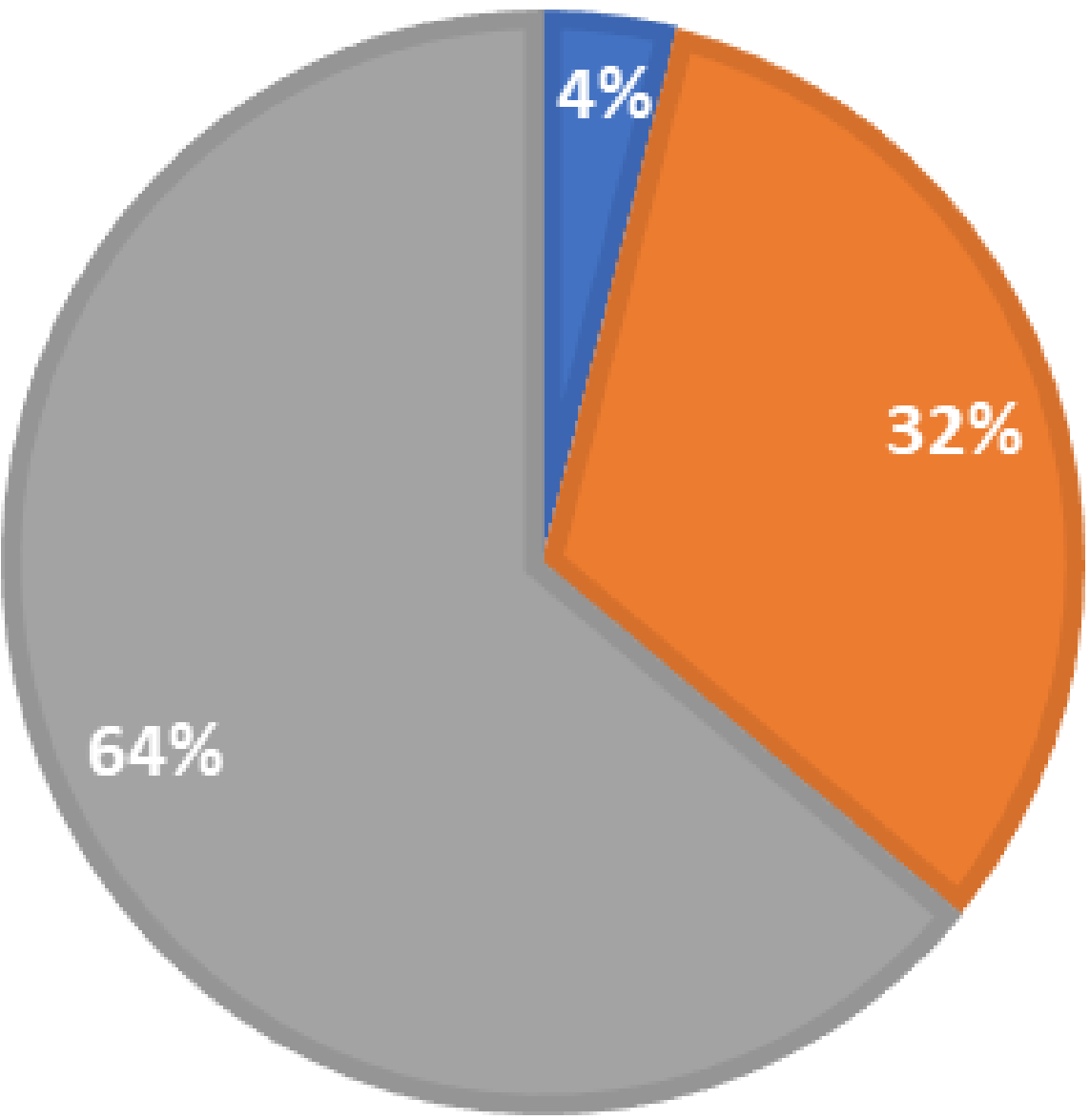


Student Response to Traditional Fire Alarm Systems in the Cal Poly Yosemite Dorms



■ Too loud ■ Forced by RA to evacuate ■ Safety



Reason for Evacuation

What would you do if you were a student living on campus and you were burdened by an annoying fire alarm late at night? Though evacuating the building seems like the most logical and safe course of action, sleeping or studying for a big midterm may be a risk you are willing to take. It is important to know the real facts on how students respond to fire alarms, the reason why they would respond, and their overall interpretation of them. In this paper is one in person survey of 50 students in the Yosemite dorms, three phone interviews with two fire alarm contractors, and a Cal Poly fire and life safety specialist. Some of the student responses were the right thing to do in terms of response, but their thought process on whether it is a real fire, or a drill was exactly what was expected. By collecting the qualitative data in the three phone interviews, a general overview of fire alarm systems and the sequence of operation of those systems could be better understood. The results of this survey bring up some concerning evidence on whether students take fire alarms seriously.

Keywords: evacuating, course of action, risk, fire drills, false alarms, saving lives, response, thought process, fire alarm systems, sequence of operation,

Sequence of Operation



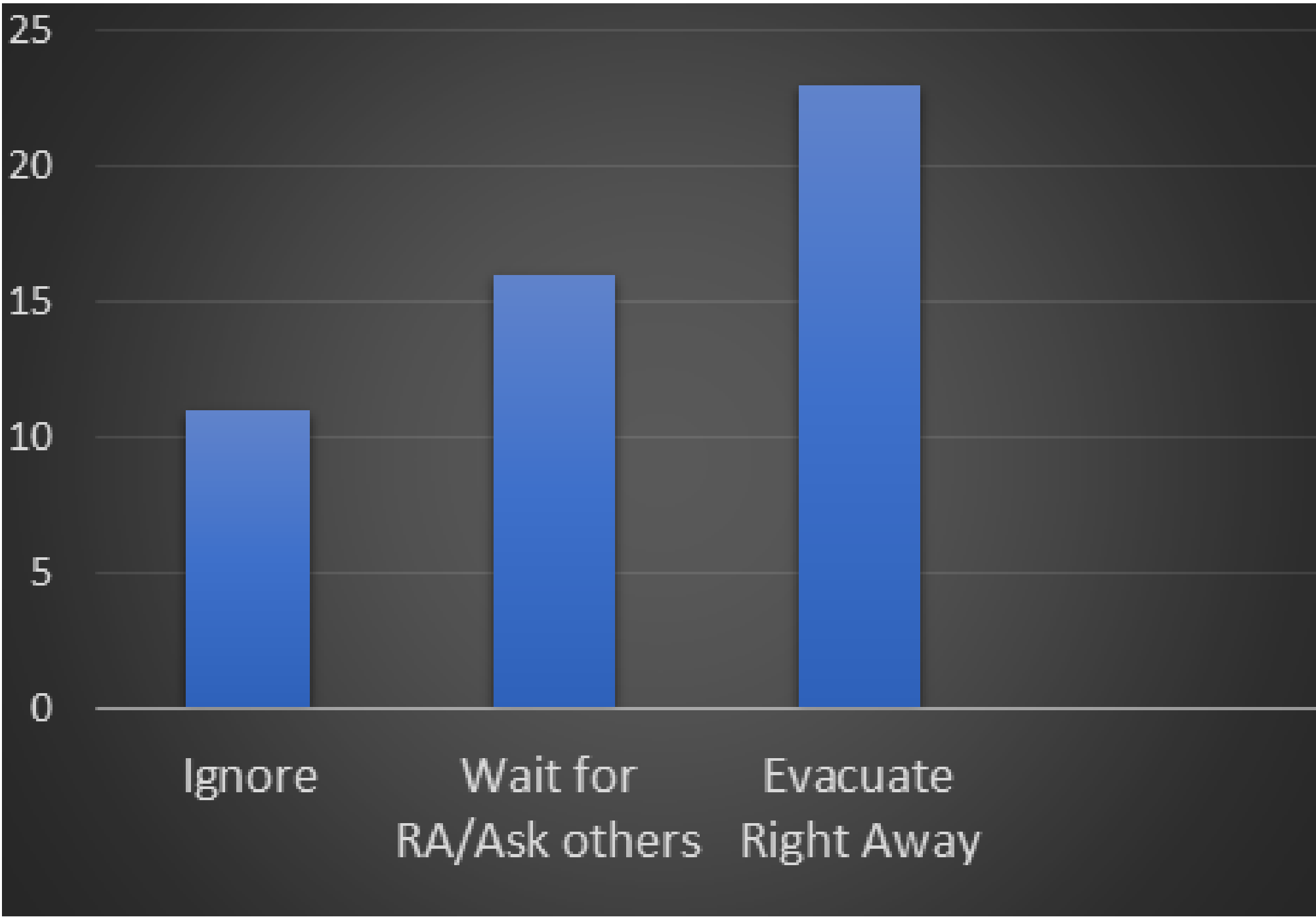
Emergency Communication System



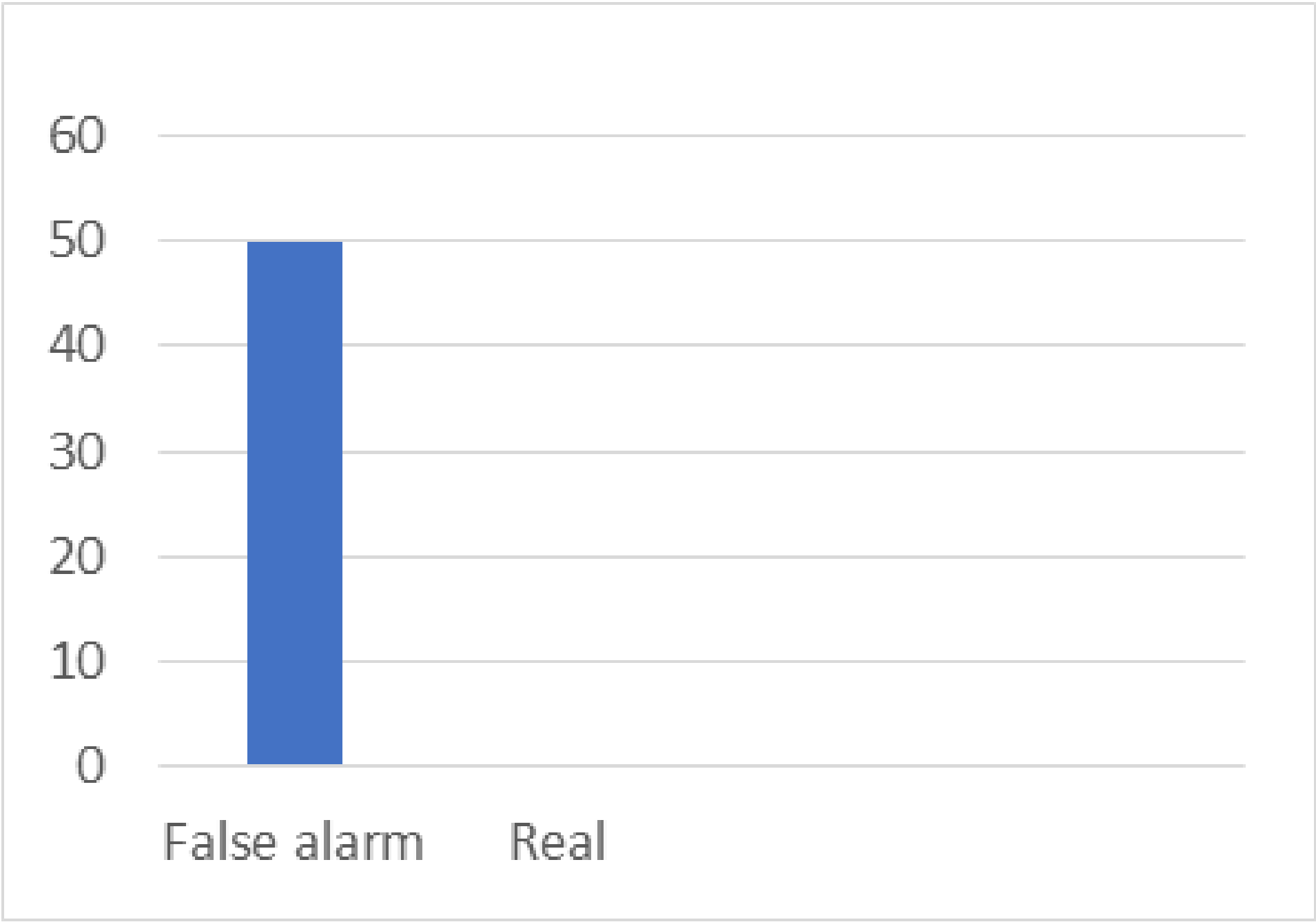
Fire Alarm Control Panel



Photoelectric smoke and carbon monoxide detector



Student Evacuation Response



Student Interpretation: False Alarm or Real?

Fire Drills

