

A photograph of two young men in climbing gear, including helmets and harnesses, smiling on a rocky cliff face. They are wearing light blue shirts and khaki pants. The man on the right has his arm around the man on the left. A purple rope is visible in the foreground.

# THE RISK MANAGEMENT OF TEACHING ADVANCED CLIMBING SKILLS

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WRMIG



NOLS  
OUTWARD  
BOUND  
SEA

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# THE GOALS

1. WHAT
2. WHO
3. WHY
4. PROGRAM ANALYSIS
5. STRUCTURE, SYSTEMS, PROGRESSION
6. INCIDENTS & DATA



# WHAT?

- LEADING
  - SPORT
  - TRADITIONAL
- LEAD BELAYING
- MULTI-PITCHING
  - FOLLOWER
  - LEADER

# WHO?

- PROGRAMS WITH A PREDOMINATELY TOP ROPE CURRICULUM
- PROGRAMS ALREADY TEACHING ADVANCED CLIMBING
- PROGRAMS INTERESTED IN TAKING THIS STEP



# WHY?

- POPULARITY
- PERSONAL GROWTH
- PURSUIT AFTER YOUR PROGRAM



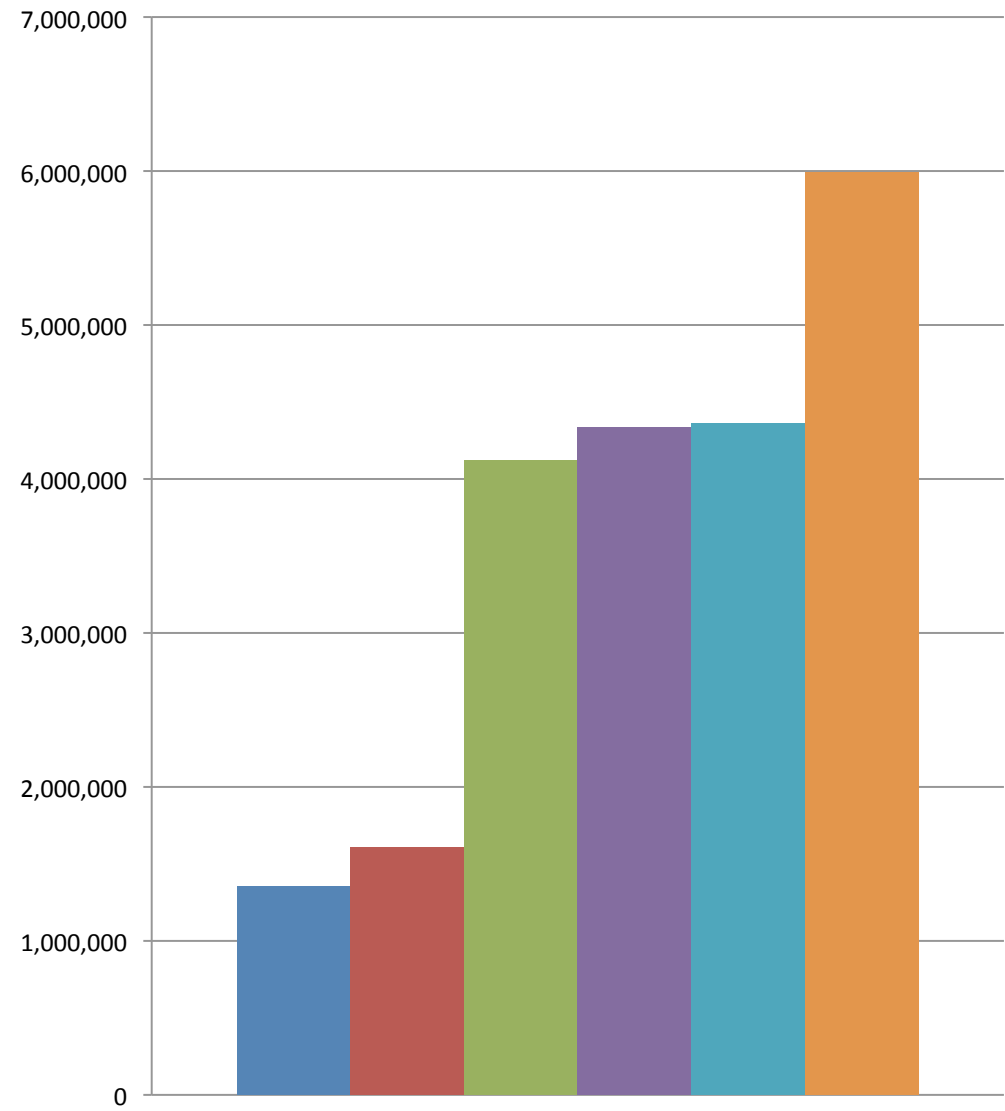


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- Lacrosse
- Traditional/Mountain/Ice
- Sport Climbing/Bouldering/Indoor
- Soccer
- Track and Field
- Football

## Participation Numbers









# PERSONAL GROWTH

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# CLIMBING AFTER YOUR PROGRAM





# PROGRAM ANALYSIS

- CONNECTION BETWEEN MISSION AND RISK MANAGEMENT
- PROGRAM LENGTH
- CLASSROOM
- GEAR
- STAFF
- STUDENTS

# MISSION

**DOES OPENING UP OUR PROGRAM  
TO ADVANCED CLIMBING SKILLS  
SUPPORT OUR MISSION??**

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# PROGRAM LENGTH

HOW LONG DO  
YOU HAVE  
ACCESS TO  
STUDENTS?

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# CLASSROOM

- PERMITS
- ACCESSIBILITY
- CRAGS FOR NOVICES
- MULTI-PITCHING

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# GEAR

- ACQUIRING
- MAINTAINING
- EVALUATING



# STAFF

- EXPERIENCE
- TRAINING
- FAMILIARITY
- STRUCTURE
- JUDGEMENT & RESPONSIBILITY

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A person wearing a white helmet, a black tank top, and grey pants is climbing a grey rock face. They are wearing a harness and a rope is attached to their waist. The rock face has some yellow and red markings.

# STUDENTS

- PERCEPTION OF STUDENTS
- THE RIGHT STUDENTS
- INSTRUCTOR JUDGEMENT

WRMVC



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# STRUCTURE, SYSTEMS, PROGRESSION

- **INSTRUCTOR TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT**
- **ESTABLISHED FIELD PRACTICES AND GUIDELINES**
- **BALANCE OF PROTOCOLS AND INSTRUCTOR JUDGEMENT**
- **TOOLS AND RESOURCES**
- **SKILLS PROGRESSIONS**







# STAFF TRAINING & EXPECTATIONS

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LEADERSHIP RISK MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS  
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**A. The Instructor will:**

1. Be able to climb a variety of terrain, crack, face, friction and role model and teach appropriate movement techniques for that type of climb.
- \*  2. Be able to set up, supervise, and manage four students on a top rope site (1:4 instructor/student ratio).
  - a. Have mastery of knots used at NOLS for climbing and basic rescue.
  - b. Be able to efficiently build appropriate simple artificial and natural anchors without supervision from other instructors.
- \*  3. Be able to recognize and correct student errors in belaying, climbing, rappelling and rope skills.
- \*  4. Effectively manage 2 – 3 students on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> class terrain (the latter within personal climbing abilities). Includes spotting, handlines, fixed lines, hip belays, terrain belays and pack passes
5. Be able to lead climb at the 5.6 level with student belayers.
- \* 6. Be able to lead/guide two students on multipitch rock, mixed snow and rock, or snow routes within personal ability; e.g. within personal comfort zone while climbing efficiently and managing the climb as a “classroom” for our students while minimizing likelihood of a lead fall.
7. Be knowledgeable of and experienced using the specialized climbing gear on the course.
- \*  8. Understand and make use of various methods of descent with students (lowering, rappelling instructor first, students first).
- \* 9. Be able to retreat from multi-pitch climbs efficiently with appropriate caution under adverse weather conditions.
10. Be able to perform the following self-rescue techniques (in a realistic situations, e.g.: full body weight):
  - a. Tie off a fallen climber
  - b. Escape a belay
  - c. Lower
  - d. Unload a weighted auto locking belay device
  - e. Simple Hauls 2:1/3:1
  - f. Ascend a fixed line
  - g. Pass knots

\$29.<sup>95</sup>



# Rock Climbing

## INSTRUCTOR NOTEBOOK



DAVID ANDERSON

**WRMRC** |



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# STUDENT PROGRESSIONS

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**ONSITING,  
RESCUE**

**MULTIPITCH**

**LEADING, LEAD  
BELAYING**

**GEAR, ANCHORS,  
RAPPELLING**

**TOP ROPING**

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# TOP ROPING

**1 ON 1  
CHECKS**

**NO BACK-UP,  
STUDENT CHECKS**

**DISPLAYED  
COMPETENCY**

**BACK UP BELAY,  
INSTRUCTOR CHECKS**



# LEADING

ANCHORS,  
BELAYING FROM  
ABOVE, ETC.

LEADING:  
RED POINT vs.  
ON SITE

MOCK LEADS

CLASS ON LEAD TECHNIQUE  
AND THEORY



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# MULTI-PITCHING

LEADING

ADVANCED  
COMPETENCE

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup> ....  
MULTI PITCH

LEAD BELAYING,  
CLEANING GEAR

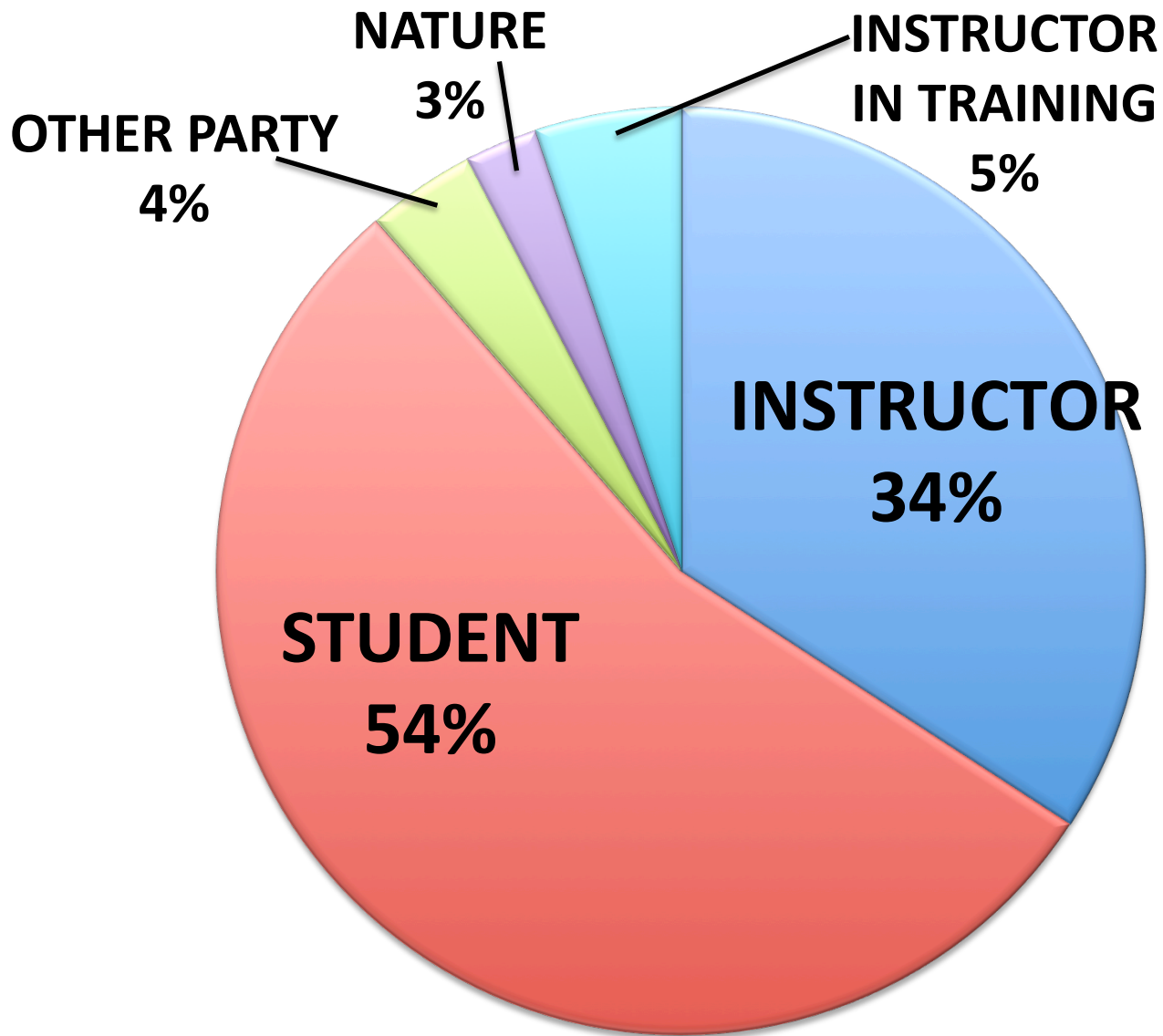
COMPETENCY AND  
RESPONSIBILITY



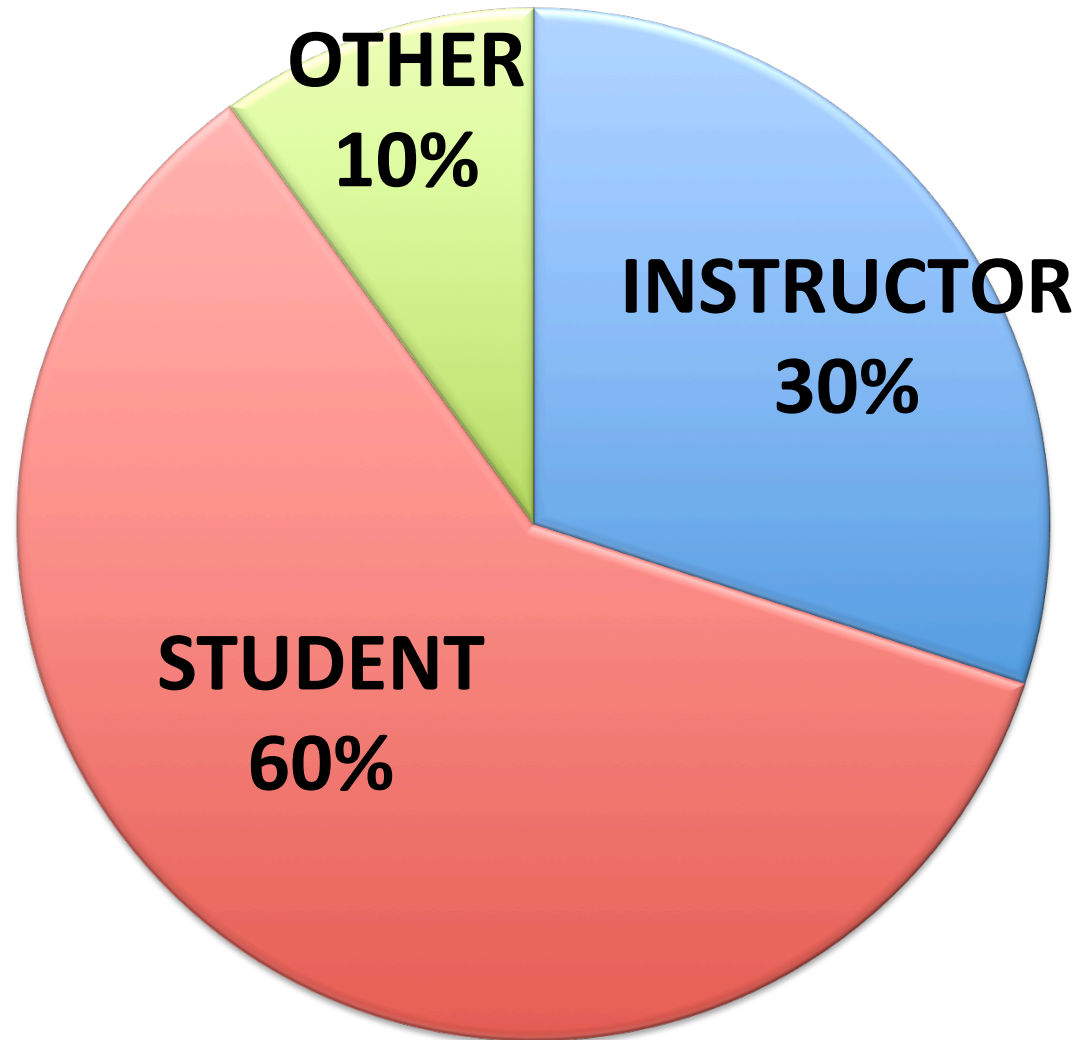
# RISK MANAGEMENT DATA

- INFORM US ABOUT STRUCTURE AND GUIDELINES
- ADVANCED SKILLS = MORE INCIDENTS?
- FOR WHO?
- HOW?



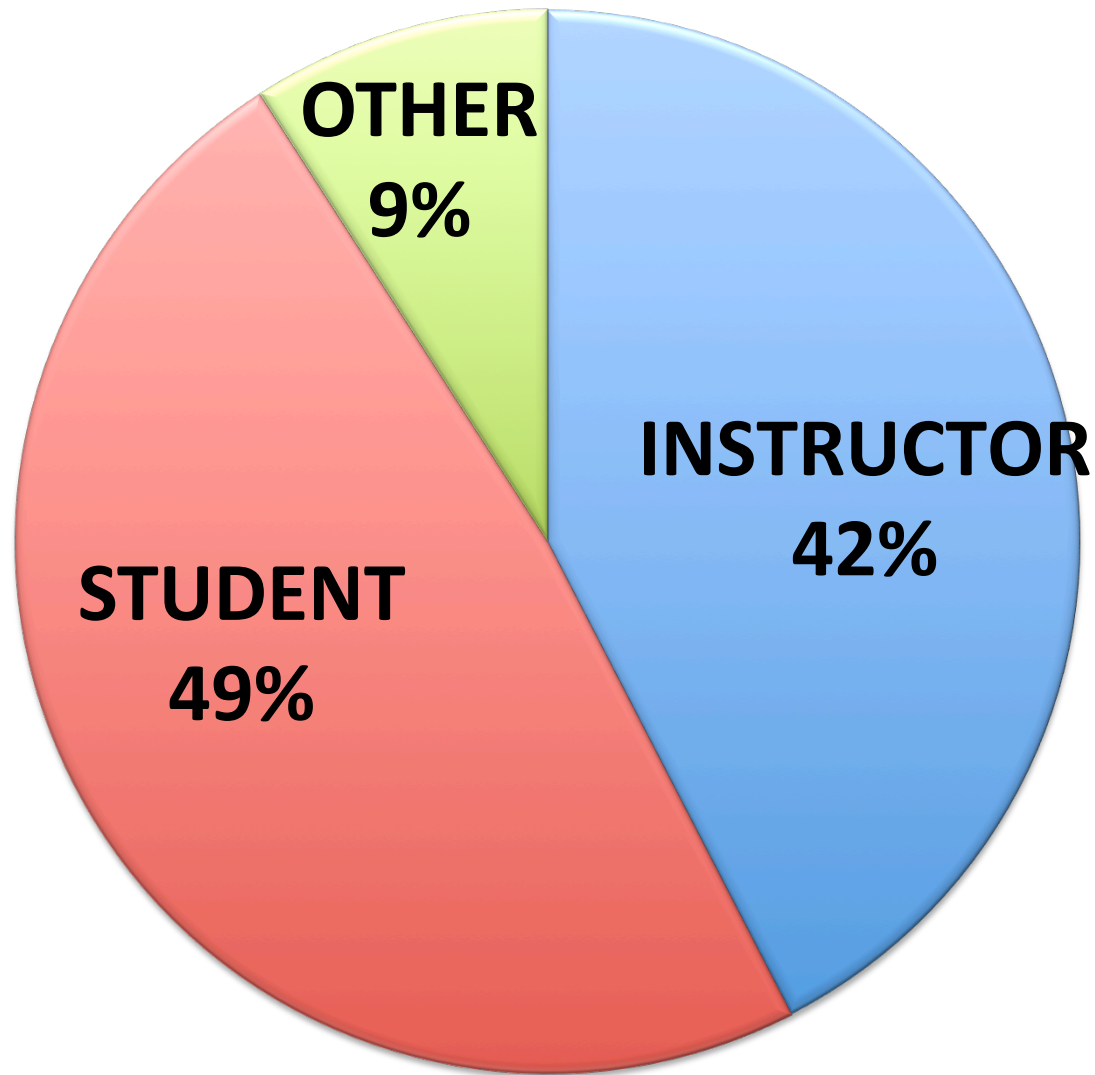


**INCIDENTS BY PRIMARY SOURCE**  
**TOTAL INCIDENTS 79**

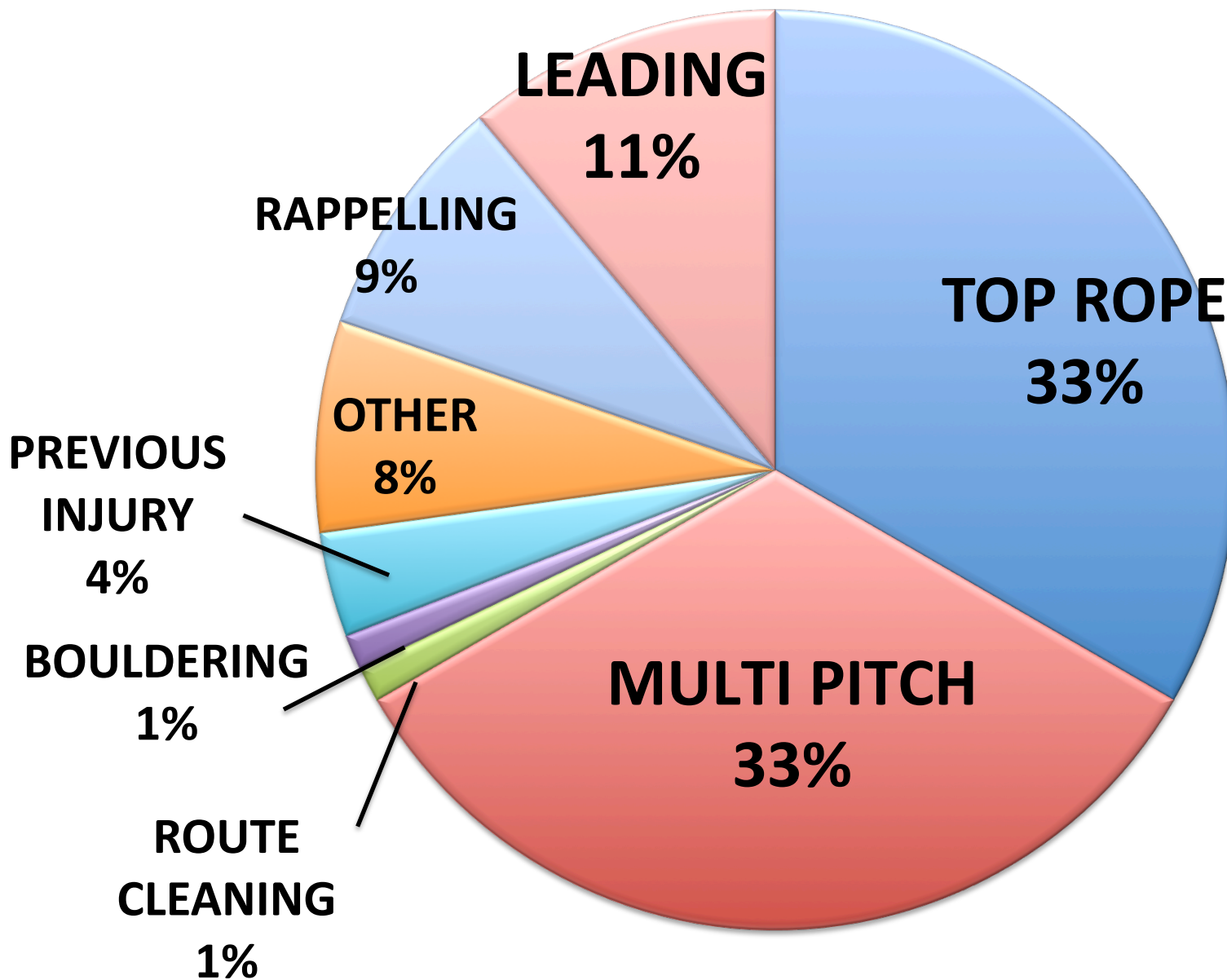


## TOP ROPE INCIDENTS (30) BY PRIMARY SOURCE





# ADVANCED SKILLS INCIDENTS (33) BY PRIMARY SOURCE

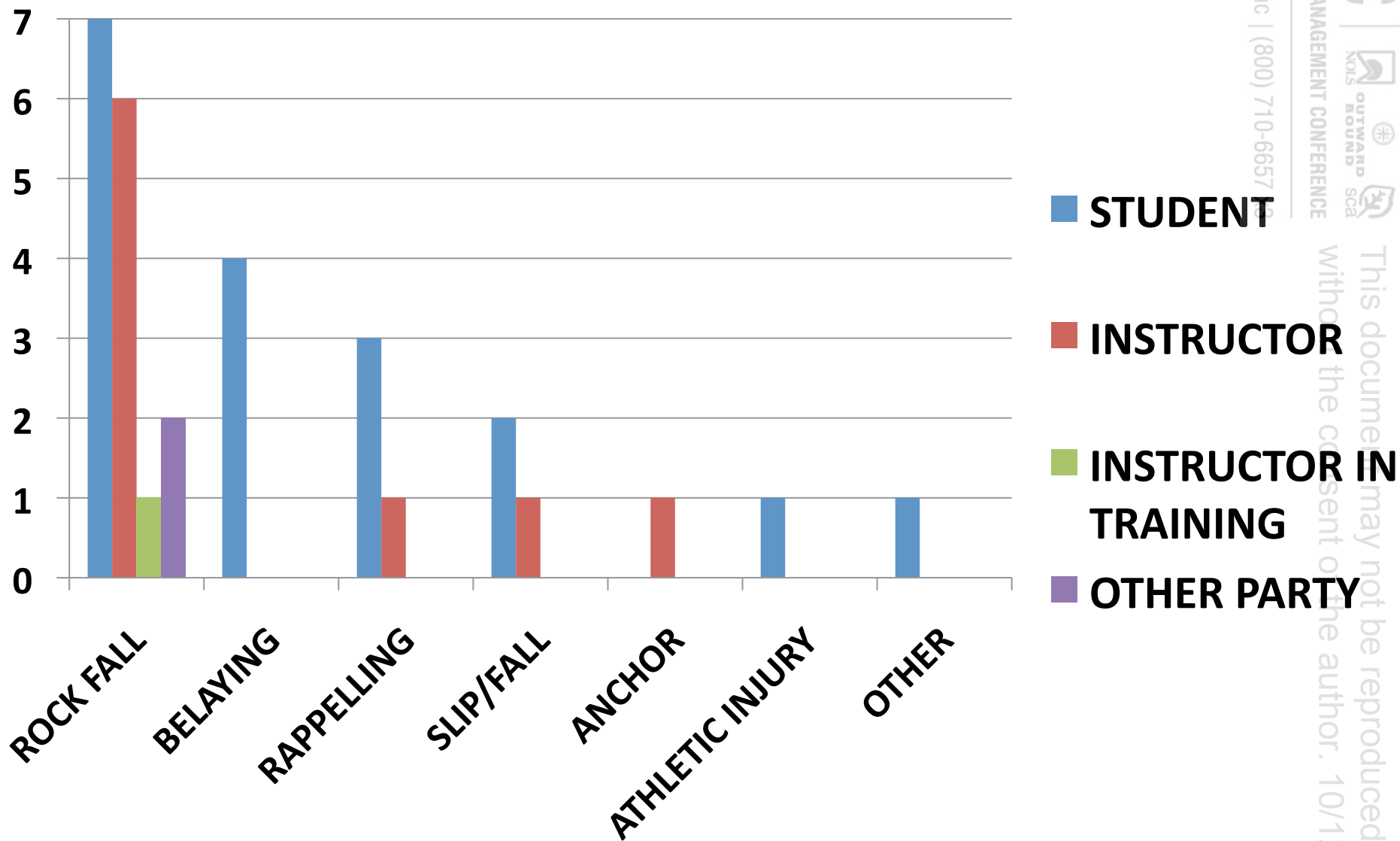


**INCIDENTS BY PRIMARY ACTIVITY**



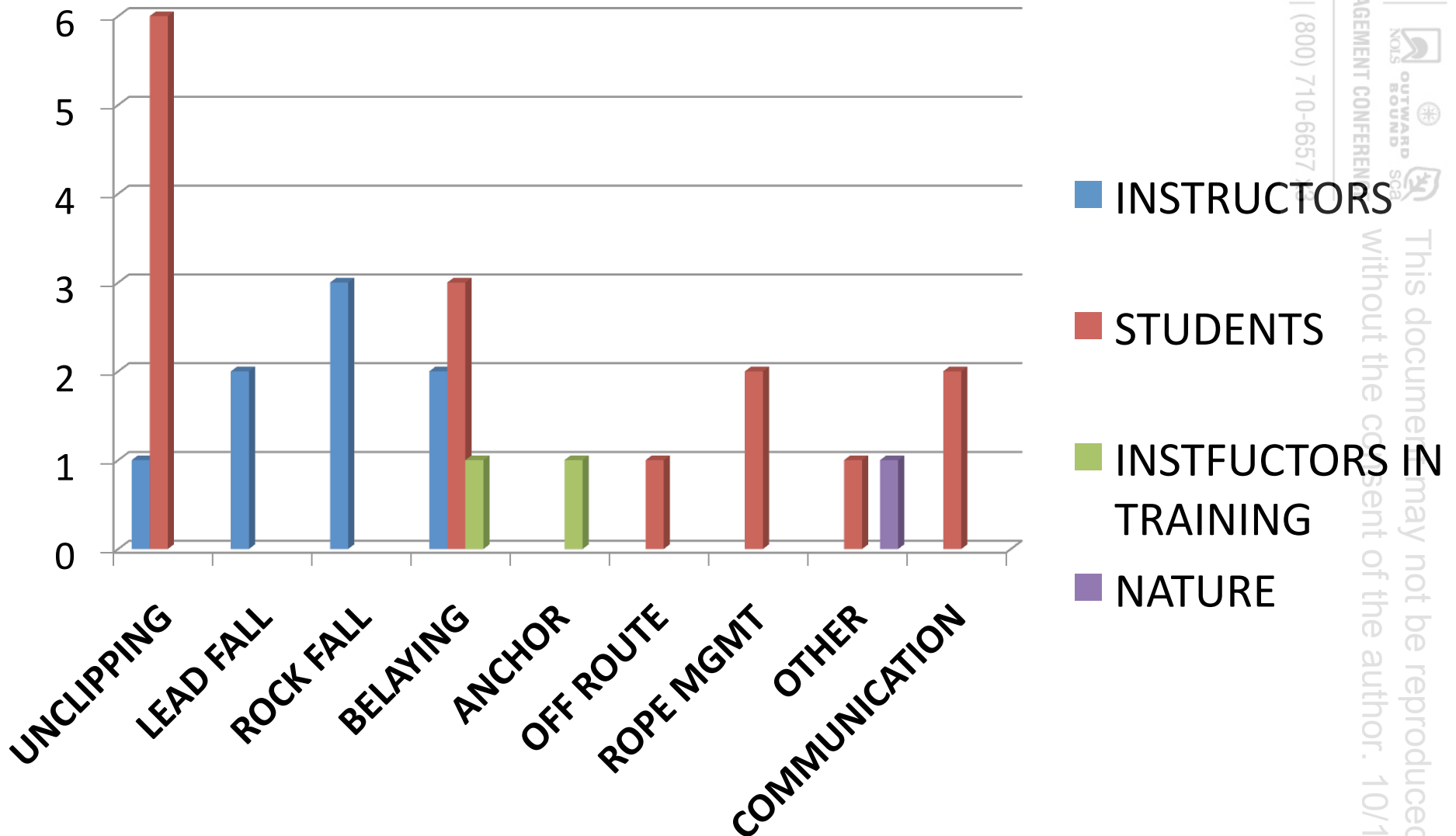
# TOP ROP INCIDENTS

## 30 TOTAL INCIDENTS



# MULTI-PITCH INCIDENTS

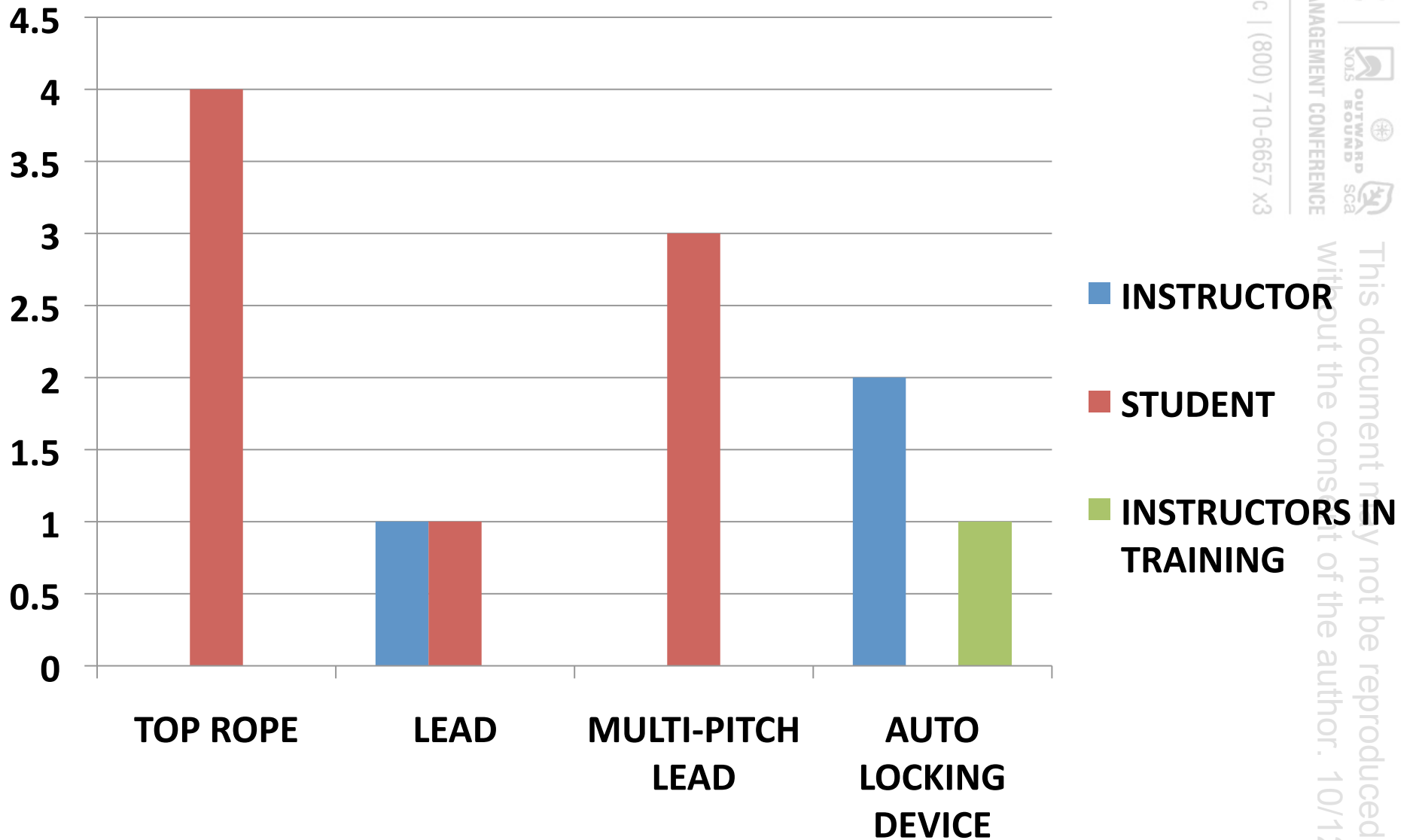
26 TOTAL INCIDENTS





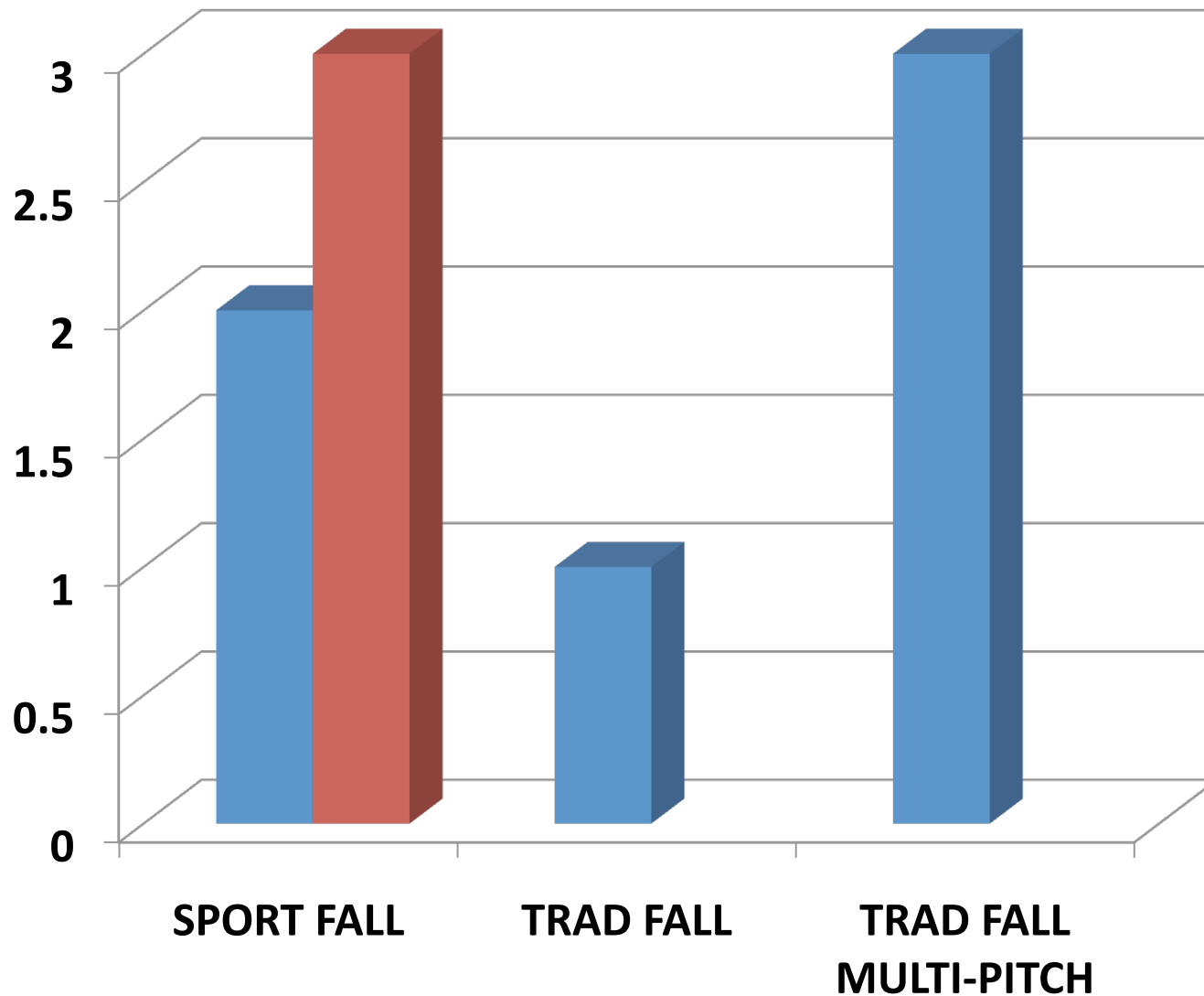
# BELAYING INCIDENTS

## 14 TOTAL INCIDENTS



# LEADING INCIDENTS

## TOTAL INCIDENTS: 9



**INSTRUCTOR**  
**STUDENT**



**QUESTIONS?  
DISCUSSION  
COMMENTS**

**THEN SOME INCIDENTS....**

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# QUESTIONS FOR YOUR INCIDENT

- WHAT WENT WRONG?
  - DECISIONS?
  - SYSTEMS?
  - STUDENTS? STAFF?
- IS THIS A SKILL YOU COULD SEE BEING PRESENT IN YOUR PROGRAM? WHY?
- WHAT ARE PROTOCOLS, GUIDELINES, OR ADDITIONS TO TRAINING YOU WOULD MAKE BASED ON LEARNING FROM THIS INCIDENT?



ANNA HAEGEL

anna\_haegel@nols.edu