

# Washington State Damage Reporting Quarter 3 DIRT Analysis July - Sept 2013

## Introduction

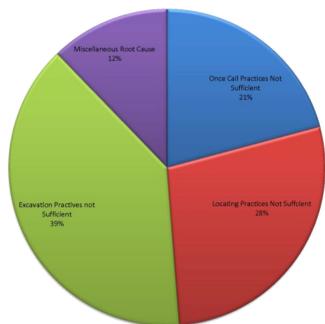
This Washington DIRT report provides a summary and analysis of the submitted events occurring during the third quarter of 2013 (July - Sept). To generate the most accurate analysis of damage events, it is important that damages are reported to DIRT within the 45 day timeframe set forth in the statute. Any damages occurring during that time which were submitted after the 45 day period will not be included in the analysis report.

## Trends

Third quarter is typically the most active time of the year for excavation and the numbers agree. A total of **917** damage events were submitted for Q3 2013. That is almost as much as Q1 and Q2 combined! We believe this to be due to greater awareness of the state reporting requirements and processes, as well as the time of year. We do not expect fourth quarter numbers to be nearly as high and even see a downward trend. The root cause categories are very similar to Second quarter.

**Insufficient excavating practices** is up two points from last quarter at 39 percent of total damages. Of the seven options within that root cause, **failure to use hand tools** is the highest issues with 156 incidents with **other insufficient excavation practices** coming close with 123 incidents. As mentioned in our last report, these are incidents we could easily avoid if care is taken when excavating. Another root cause that can drastically decrease the amount of damages occurring was the single highest root cause issue: **no notification made to one-call center**. There were a total of **182** damage incident caused by no locate being requested prior to digging. If every one called for a locate *and* used hand tools when necessary, there could have been as many as **279 less** damages in third quarter 2013.

Damages by Root Cause



## Reporting Issues

There hasn't been much change from second quarter to third quarter when it comes to reporting issues. We are still seeing a lack of duplicate reports. As the statute is written, both the excavator and facility operator should be submitting reports for a given damage. That means each incident should reflect **two** reports in the system. At this point, we are seeing a very small number of duplicate reports, somewhere around **five percent, or less**. If we look at who is reporting as a whole, facility operators are outweighing the excavators tenfold. Of the 917 reports submitted, **only 91 of those were excavators**. We really need to get a better response from the excavator community. One way to do this is increased education. Specifically, when a facility is damaged, a facility operator has the opportunity to remind the excavator of their responsibility to report the damage to the commission. The state's gas utilities are currently doing this.

When it comes to facility operators, **natural gas companies** are still providing the bulk of our data although electric operators are making a strong increase with 172 reports in third quarter. We would expect that other facilities are being cut at similar rates to natural gas, and would like to see that reflected in our report. Therefore, we need to make an effort to ensure that everyone is reporting damage events to the commission within the 45 day requirement. **Expect contact from the commission** if your company is **not** reporting damages.

Reporting Stakeholders

