

Washington State Damage Reporting Quarter 2 DIRT Analysis

April - June 2013

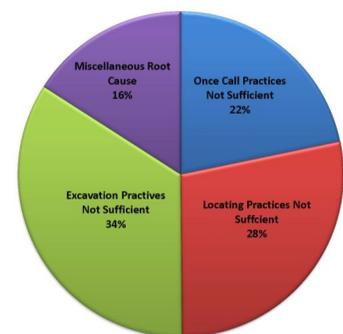
Introduction

This Washington DIRT report provides a summary and analysis of the submitted events occurring during the second quarter of 2013 (April – June). 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

More data! A total of **722** damage events were submitted for Q2 2013. That is almost twice as many reports as Q1. We believe this to be due to greater awareness of the state reporting requirements and processes, as well as the time of year. There is much more construction happening in the spring than in the winter months. We expect that this trend will continue as we receive third quarter reports. We are also starting to see some separation in the root cause categories. **Insufficient excavating practices** is now accounting for 34 percent of total damages. Of the seven options within that root cause, **failure to use hand tools** is among the highest issues with 92 incidents. The good news? Most of these damages can be avoided by following proper excavation practices. 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 **145** 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 **237 less** damages in second quarter 2013.

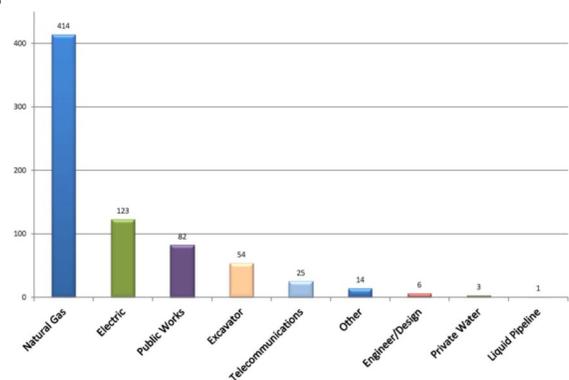
Damages by Root Cause



Reporting Issues

The single largest reporting issue is 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 722 reports submitted, **only 54 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.

Reporting Stakeholders



When it comes to facility operators, **natural gas companies** are providing the bulk of our data. This is largely due to the fact that they are also required by WAC rule to report their damages to the commission. We would expect that other facilities are being cut at similar rates. Therefore, we need to make an effort to ensure that they too are reporting damage events to the commission within the 45 day requirement. **Expect contact from the commission** if your company is **not** reporting damages.

If you have questions regarding this report or damage reporting in general, contact [Anna Gill](#).