



# Washington State Damage Reporting Q3 2014 DIRT Analysis July - Sept. 2014

## Introduction

This Washington DIRT report provides a summary and analysis of the submitted damage events occurring during the third quarter of 2014. To generate the most accurate analysis of damage events, it's 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 report analysis.

## Trends

In the third quarter of 2014, a total of **874** damage reports were submitted in the DIRT database. Of those reports, seven were duplicates (meaning both the facility owner and the excavator submitted reports). It was good to see that the **Miscellaneous** category reduced from 30 percent last quarter to 25 percent this quarter. In that same category, there were also 58 fewer events identified as "Data Not Collected." This is significant because the more detailed information we have about damage events, the clearer the picture will be about the types of activities that cause damage. **Excavation Practices Not Sufficient** accounted for 32 percent of total damages, with 85 incidents "other insufficient excavation practices." In addition, we identified 130 damage incidents caused by "failure to use hand tools," which is an all time high and a 14 percent jump over last quarter. **Locating practices not sufficient** takes 27 percent, and is down nearly 10 percent from the previous quarter, with 131 incidents of "facility not located or marked" and 95 incidents of "facility marking or location not sufficient." **One Call Notification Practices Not Sufficient** is at 16 percent, with 136 events identified as "no notification made to one-call center." This is good news, as it's the second consecutive report showing this category under 20 percent, and leads us to believe more people are getting the message to call for locates.

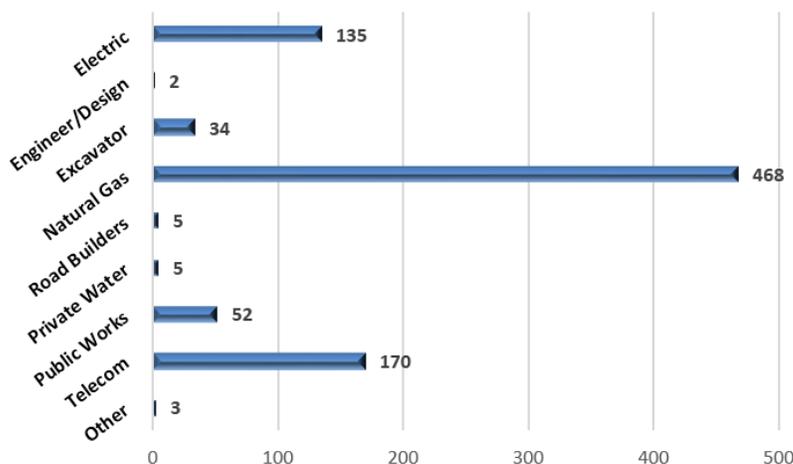
Damages by Root Cause



## Reporting Issues

With 468 incident reports, **natural gas** stakeholders submitted the bulk of our data and accounted for 54 percent of all reports filed. **Telecommunications** companies submitted 170 reports, attributing 19 percent of events filed this quarter, and **Electric** companies submitted 135 reports for 15 percent of reports filed this quarter. A continued area of concern is that **excavators** submitted only 34 damage reports, accounting for just 4 percent of all reports filed. As each damage event should reflect two damage reports, we want to encourage facility operators to provide information about damage reporting to all excavators who damage their facilities, and the 45 day requirement to report, per **RCW 19.122.053**. Again, we also want to remind companies who record damage incidents in their own virtualDIRT programs that it is **their** responsibility to ensure the reports are being submitted to the commission's VirtualDIRT program, as required in **RCW 19.122.053(3)**.

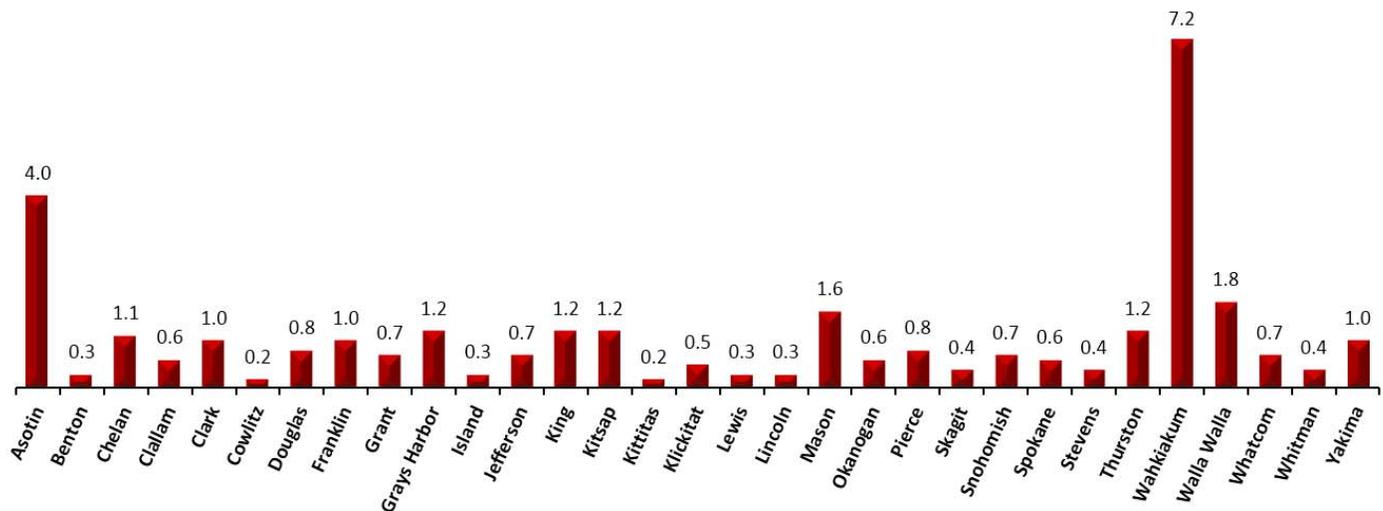
Reporting Stakeholders



## Damage Events by County

The chart below identifies damage events by county, per 100 locate requests. While this type of chart normalizes damage statistics and shows a clearer picture of how each county rates in comparison to other counties, the smaller counties with fewer locate requests and several damage incidents will stand out considerably. For instance, seven damage events were reported in Wahkiakum County, but with only 97 requests made for locates they fall at 7.2 damages per 100 requests. This chart is also helpful in identifying counties that may need additional outreach and education, as we would like to see all counties below 1.0.

### Damages by County per 100 Locate Requests



## Education

We are currently working on the development of our 2015 advertising campaign. The campaign will feature some great new PSAs, radio spots, and outdoor media. The campaign will run from March - June 2015, and will be seen on television, the internet, in movie theaters, and the sides of buses. In addition you will hear the radio advertising on a variety of stations, including Pandora radio.

We will also continue providing outreach and education throughout the state with all stakeholders, including the excavation community, public utilities, local utility coordinating councils and facility operators. You can help by providing the commission's contact information to anyone who is unaware of the requirements outlined in RCW 19.122, or in need of information about damage reporting. If your organization would like to arrange a presentation by the commission, or if you have questions regarding this report or damage reporting in general, contact [Lynda Holloway](#).