



Washington State Damage Reporting Q4 2014 DIRT Analysis Oct.— Dec. 2014

Introduction

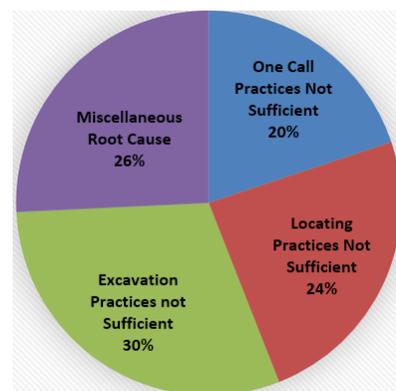
This Washington DIRT report provides a summary and analysis of submitted damage events occurring during the fourth quarter of 2014. To generate the most accurate analysis of damage events, it is important that damages are reported to DIRT within the 45 day timeframe set forth in the statute. Any damages occurring during that time which were submitted after the 45 day period will not be included in the report analysis.

Trends

In the fourth quarter of 2014, a total of **629** damage reports were submitted to the DIRT database. While the numbers are lower than the previous quarter, they represent 55 more reports over the same Q4 time frame in 2013. We believe the additional reports are due to increased education about reporting, and more construction activity because of mild fall and winter temperatures.

Miscellaneous Root Cause at 26 percent continues to be a concern, with 162 damage incidents reported under this category. In particular “data not collected” is the root cause listed on 111 reports and “other” is listed on another 38. These numbers are significant, and easy to remedy. Remember, 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** account for 30 percent of total damages, with 103 damage incidents caused by “failure to use hand tools.” **Locating practices not sufficient** is lower again this quarter at 24 percent, with 77 incidents of “facility not located or marked” and 64 incidents of “facility marking or location not sufficient.” **One Call Notification Practices Not Sufficient** rose a bit to 20 percent, with 124 events identified as “no notification made to one-call center.” While the percentage is up a bit from the previous quarter, this category is down eight percent from the previous year.

Damages by Root Cause



Reporting Issues

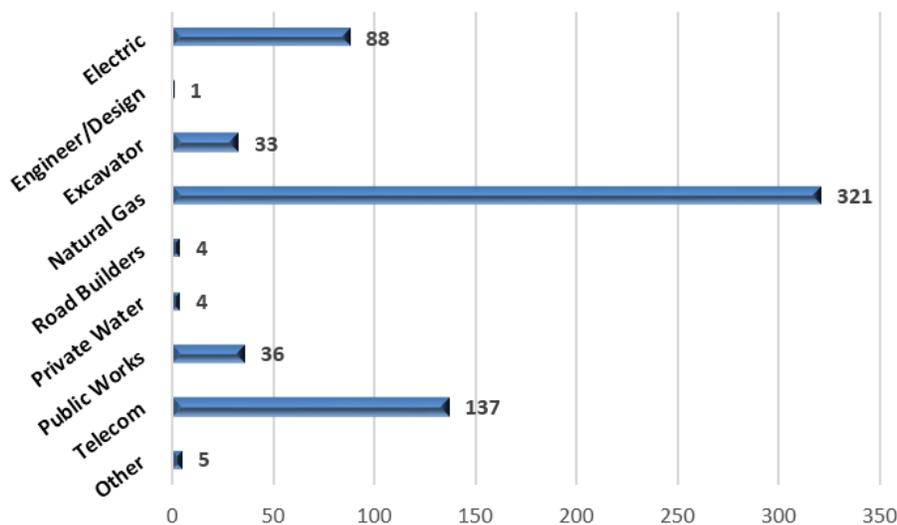
With 321 incident reports, **natural gas** stakeholders submitted the bulk of our data and accounted for 51 percent of all reports filed.

Telecommunications companies submitted 137 reports, attributing 22 percent of events filed this quarter, **electric** companies submitted 88 reports for 14 percent of reports filed this quarter, and **public works** submitted 36 reports for six percent of reports. A continued area of concern is that **excavators** submitted only 33 damage reports, making up just 5 percent of all reports filed.

Since each damage event should

reflect two damage reports, we want to provide information about damage reporting to all excavators who damage facilities, including the 45 day requirement to report, per **RCW 19.122.053**.

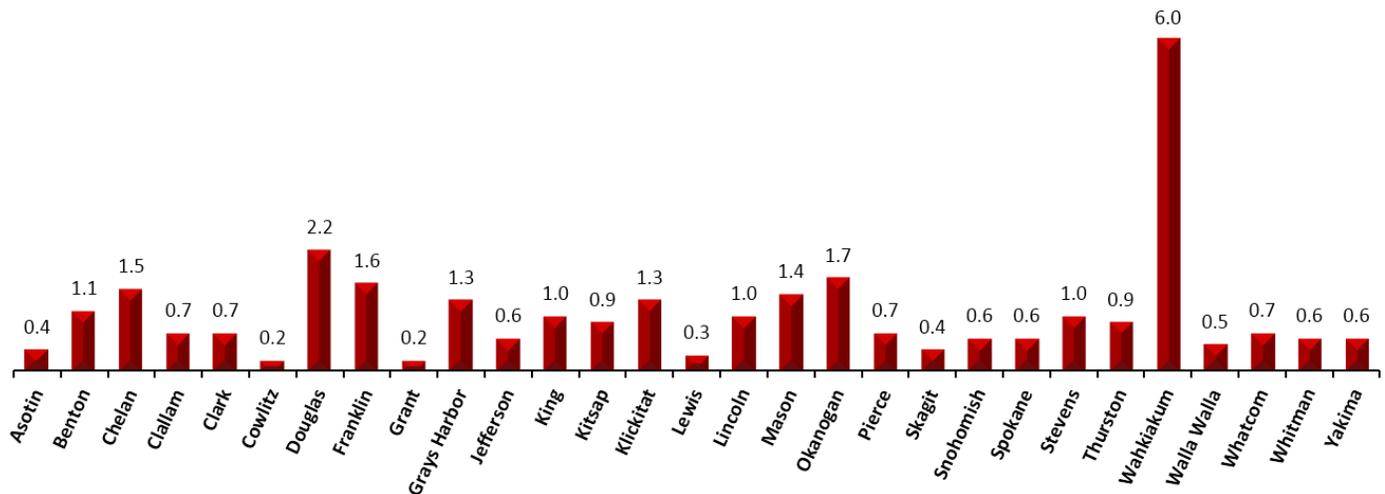
Reporting Stakeholders



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. As we would like to see all counties under 1.0, this chart may be helpful to all stakeholders in identifying counties that may need additional outreach and or education.

Damages by County per 100 Locate Requests



Education

We are putting the 2015 advertising campaign on hold at this time. We plan to run the PSAs, radio spots, and outdoor media in the Spring of 2016. In place of the 2015 campaign, we organized Call 811 Before You Dig booths at the Tacoma Home & Garden Show, the Northwest Flower & Garden Show, and the Central Washington Home & Garden Show, with help of volunteer stakeholders. The shows gave us the opportunity to educate hundreds of people about the importance of calling 811. In addition, we also had the opportunity to speak about the importance of damage reporting at 811 forums and contractor meetings in Kittitas, Grant, and Pierce Counties.

As we continue to provide outreach and education to all stakeholder groups, 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](#).