



Washington State Damage Reporting Q1 2015 DIRT Analysis Jan.— March 2015

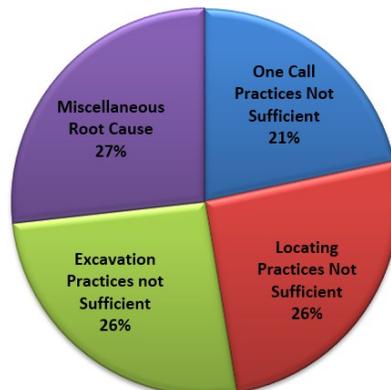
Introduction

This Washington DIRT report provides a summary and analysis of submitted damage events occurring during the first quarter of 2015. 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 first quarter of 2015, a total of **568** damage reports were submitted to the DIRT database. The numbers are again lower than the previous quarter, which is expected in the winter, yet represent 60 more damage reports over the first quarter of 2014. We believe the additional reports are due to increased education and knowledge about the requirement to report, and more construction activity. **Miscellaneous Root Cause** continues to be a concern at 27 percent with 93 damage incidents reported under this category listing “data not collected” and another 42 listing “other” as the root causes. Unfortunately, using these two categories does not help provide detailed information about damage events, or give a clear picture about the types of activities that cause damage. **Excavation Practices Not Sufficient** account for 26 percent of total damages, with 75 damage incidents caused by “failure to use hand tools.” **Locating practices not sufficient** is also at 26 percent, with 79 incidents of “facility not located or marked” and 60 incidents of “facility marking or location not sufficient.” **One Call Notification Practices Not Sufficient** accounts for the final 21 percent, with 119 events identified as “no notification made to one-call center.” While the percentage is up slightly from the previous quarter, this category in general is lower than the previous year, especially considering the 60 additional damage reports.

Damages by Root Cause

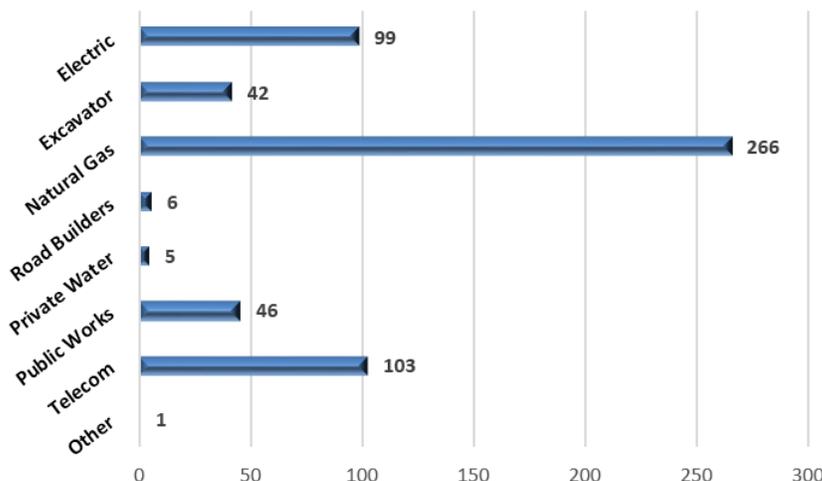


Reporting Issues

Natural gas stakeholders submitted the bulk of our data and accounted for 47 percent of all reports filed.

Telecommunications companies submitted 103 reports, attributing 19 percent of the damage events filed this quarter. **Electric** companies submitted 99 reports for 18 percent, and **public works** submitted 46 reports for 8 percent of all damage reports filed in the first quarter of 2015. **Excavators** submitted only 42 damage reports, but brought their percentage of reports filed up from 5 percent last quarter to 7 percent this quarter. Since each damage event should reflect two damage reports, we want to continue to emphasize the importance of reporting to all excavators who damage facilities, including the 45 day requirement to report, per **RCW 19.122.053**.

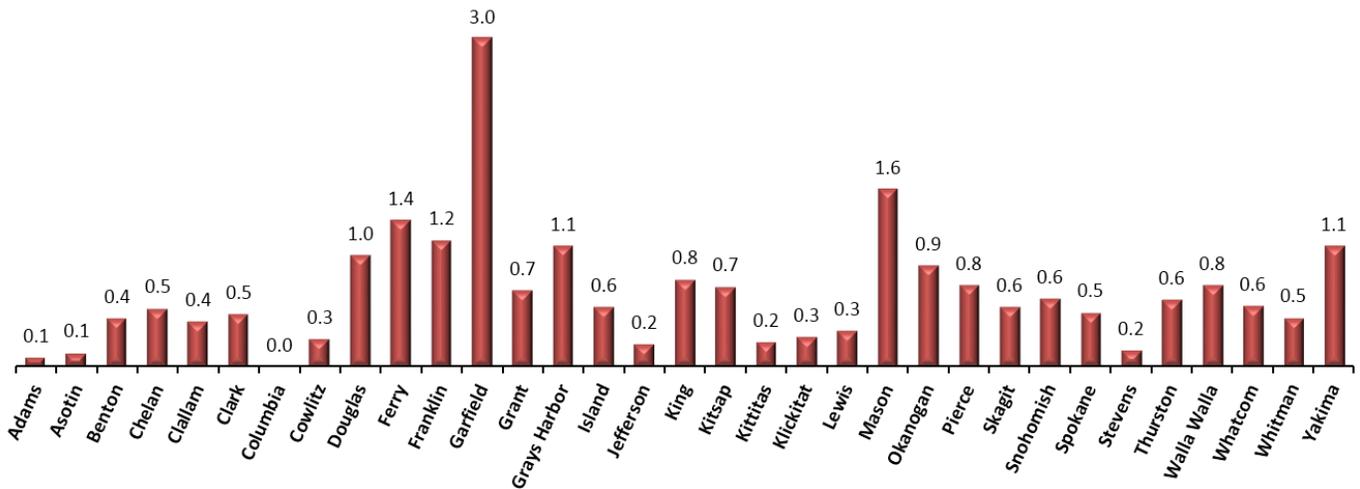
Reporting Stakeholders



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 have had the opportunity to speak about the importance of damage reporting and how to report damage at several 811 awareness forums and contractor meetings throughout the state. In addition to getting information out about damage reporting at these meetings, Don Evans from Washington 811 has also given his presentation about Washington's dig law, and Kevin Bissell from One Call Concepts has talked about (and walked people through) using the mobile application ITIC, to request underground locates.

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](#).