



Washington State Damage Reporting

Q2 2015 DIRT Analysis April - June 2015

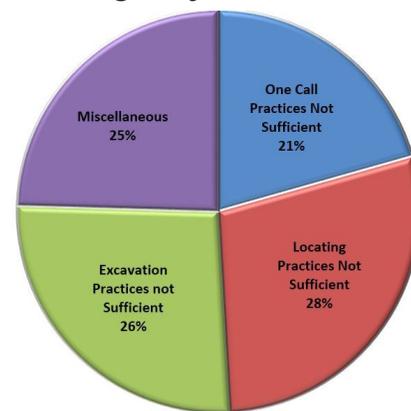
Introduction

This Washington DIRT report provides a summary and analysis of submitted damage events occurring during the second 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

A total of **868** damage reports were submitted to the DIRT database in the second quarter of 2015. The total represents 300 more reports than last quarter, which is understandable due to more construction activity and excavation due to better weather conditions in the spring. The **Miscellaneous** category continues to be an issue with 133 damage reports listing “**data not collected**,” and another 61 listing “**other**” as the cause of damage. Unfortunately, using these two categories does not provide valuable information about damage events, or give a clear picture about the types of activities that cause damage. It should be noted that the information received through root causes in DIRT reporting is not intended to be used for punitive purposes. The statistics are used to make the system better, as good data provides opportunities to develop better education and outreach. **Excavation Practices Not Sufficient** accounted for 26 percent of the total damages, listing 130 damage incidents caused by “failure to use hand tools.” **Locating practices not sufficient** is at 28 percent, with 120 incidents of “facility not located or marked” and 114 incidents of “facility marking or location not sufficient.” **One Call Notification Practices Not Sufficient** accounts for the final 21 percent, with 174 events identified as “no notification made to one-call center” as the root cause for the damage. However, out of the 868 damage reports, 39 percent state that there was **no initial locate request**. So while the root cause of the damage may be listed in another category, there were still 342 reports where no locate was requested.

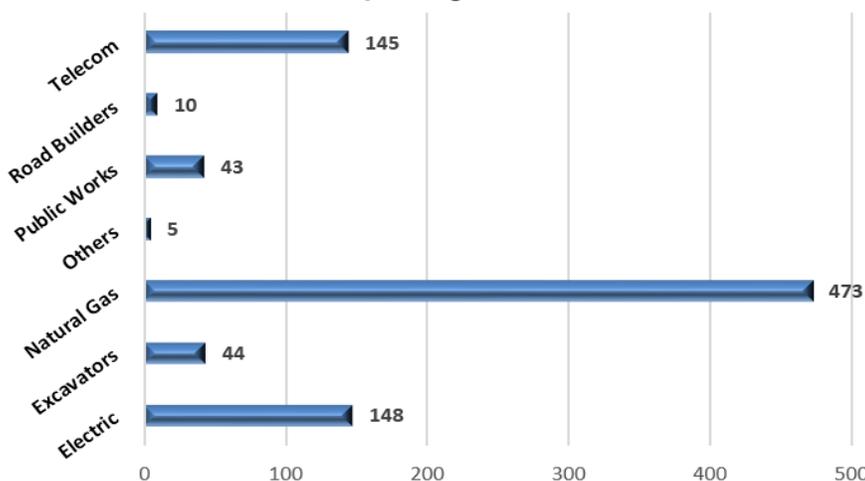
Damages by Root Cause



Reporting Issues

Natural gas stakeholders again submitted the bulk of the data with 473 reports, which accounted for 54 percent of all damage events filed this quarter. **Electric** companies submitted 148 reports for 17 percent, **Telecommunications** companies submitted 145 reports, for another 17 percent, and **public works** submitted 43 reports for five percent of all damage reports filed in the second quarter of 2015. **Excavators** submitted only 44 damage reports, which unfortunately is only two more than were submitted last quarter. Since each damage event should reflect two damage reports, we want to continue to put emphasis on the importance of DIRT reporting to all excavators who damage facilities, per **RCW 19.122.053**. Expect **contact from the commission** if your company is **not** reporting damages.

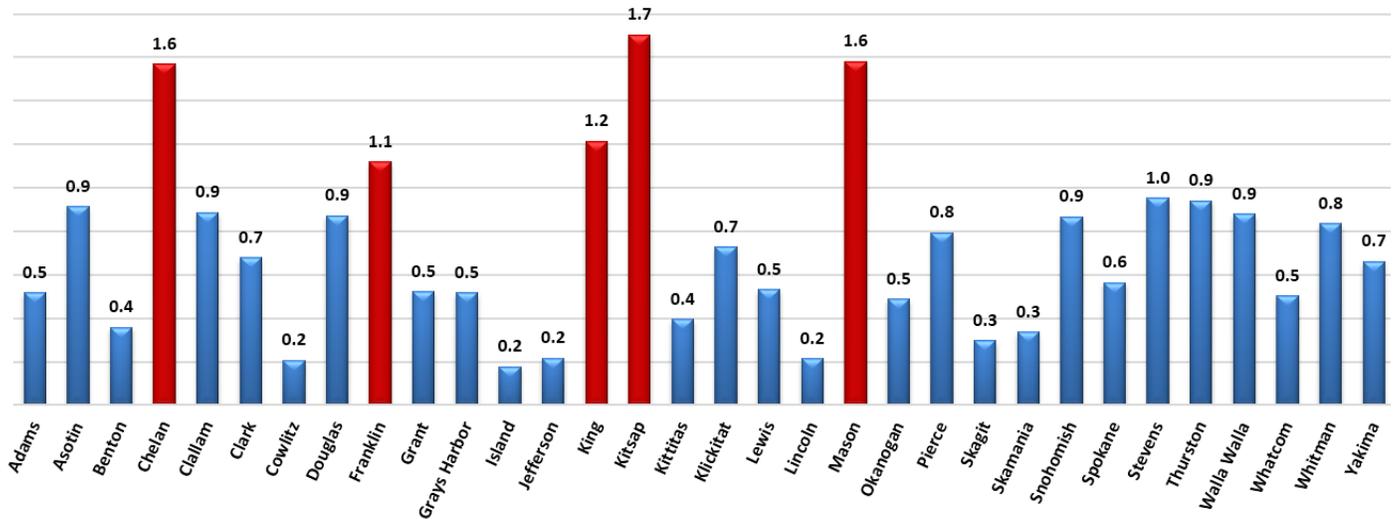
Reporting Stakeholders



Damage Events by County

The chart below identifies damage events by county, per 100 locate requests. By using the number of requests against the number of damages, the chart normalizes damage statistics, and gives a visual of how each county rates in comparison to other counties. The counties that have more than one damage per 100 locate requests have been highlighted in red to help stakeholders identify counties that may need additional outreach and or education on calling for locates prior to excavation.

Damages by County per 100 Locate Requests



Education

Without a large media campaign this year, the commission has relied on stakeholder groups to assist with education about damage prevention, best practices, and the importance of calling 811. 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](#).