

Washington State Damage Reporting

Q4 2015 DIRT Analysis Oct. - Dec. 2015

Introduction

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

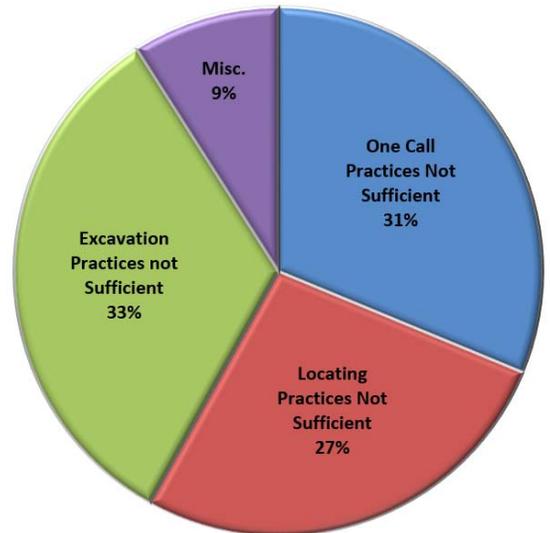
A total of **584** damage reports were submitted to the DIRT database in the fourth quarter of 2015, and is 45 fewer reports than were received in the fourth quarter of 2014. Only two Duplicate reports were found with one set being reported by Public Works and Natural Gas, and the other by Natural Gas and an Excavator.

Root Cause

Because the usage of the “**data not collected**” as a Root Cause in the **Miscellaneous** category and the desire to provide a clear picture of the actual causes of damage, we are removing those reports from this category. This will provide a clearer picture about the percentage of damage in each category by root cause and thus give a better idea of where to focus outreach and education.

Excavation Practices Not Sufficient accounted for 33 percent of the total damages again this quarter, with 90 damage incidents caused by “failure to use hand tools where required,” 30 more due to “insufficient excavation practices,” and another 20 for “failure to maintain clearance.” **One Call Notification Practices Not Sufficient** represents 31 percent, with 146 damage events with “no notification made to one-call center” listed as the root cause for the damage. As shown below, there were 262 damage reports listing “**no locate request**” was made, however, on 116 reports the person selected another root cause category for incident. **Locating practices not sufficient** accounts for 27 percent, with 61 damage incidents citing the “facility was not located or marked” and 60 incidents of “facility marking or location not sufficient” as root causes. After removing the 107 reports using “data not collected” as a root cause, the **Miscellaneous** category makes up the final piece of the pie at 9 percent, with 37 damages identified as “other” and three each for “abandoned facility” and “previous damage.”

Damage by Root Cause



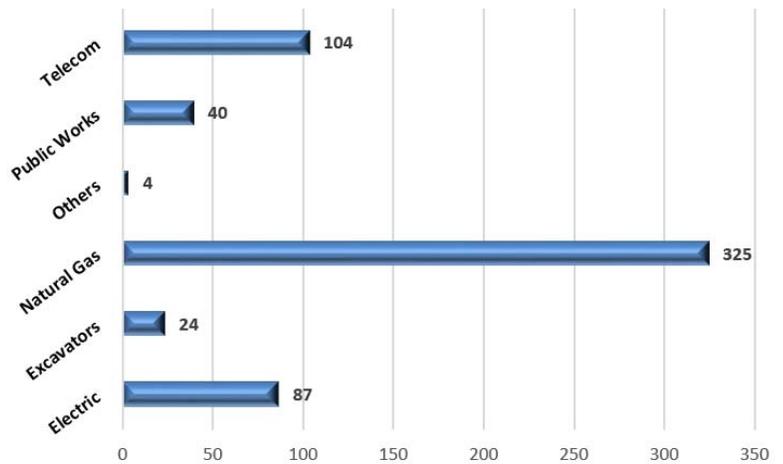
LOCATE REQUESTS:

Yes: 322 55%
No: 262 45%

The information received through root causes in DIRT reporting is not intended to be used for punitive purposes. The statistics are used to provide information about damages that everyone can use to help make the system better and identify needs or opportunities to develop better education and outreach.

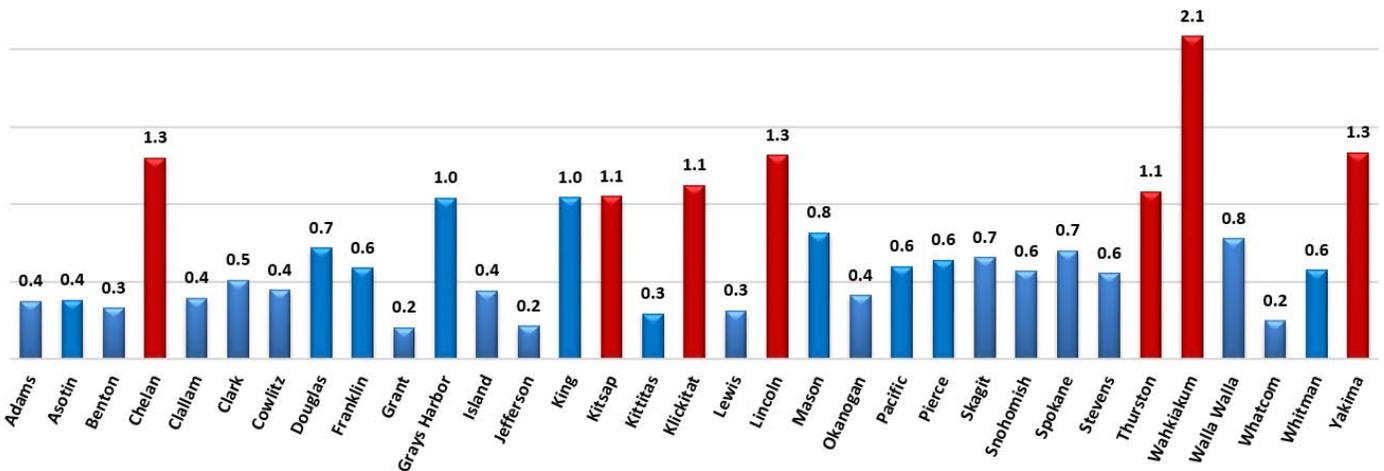
Reporting Stakeholders

Natural gas stakeholders submitted the bulk of the data with 325 reports accounting for 55 percent of all damage events filed this quarter (with 37 reports related to non-gas utilities). **Electric** companies submitted 87 reports for 15 percent, **Telecommunications** companies submitted 104 reports, for 18 percent, and **Public Works** submitted 40 reports for seven percent. **Excavators** submitted 24 damage reports, which only four percent of the total reports. It should be noted that 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.



Damage Events by County

The chart below identifies damage events by county, per 100 locate requests, and gives a visual of how each county rates in comparison to other counties. The counties that have more than 1.0 damages per 100 locate requests have been highlighted in red to help the commission and other stakeholders identify counties that may need additional outreach and or education. Last quarter we had an all time high of 11 counties over the identified target, and this quarter there are seven, so keep up the great work in education, it does pay off.



Education

The above graph should help all stakeholders with a vested interest in damage prevention, public safety and protecting infrastructure. Please take advantage of any opportunity you may have to educate others about the Call Before You Dig program and safe digging practices. You can also provide 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 about this report or damage reporting in general, contact [Lynda Holloway](#).

