

Washington State Damage Reporting

Q1 2016 DIRT Analysis Jan - March 2016

Introduction

This Washington DIRT report provides a summary and analysis of submitted damage events occurring during the first quarter of 2016. 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.

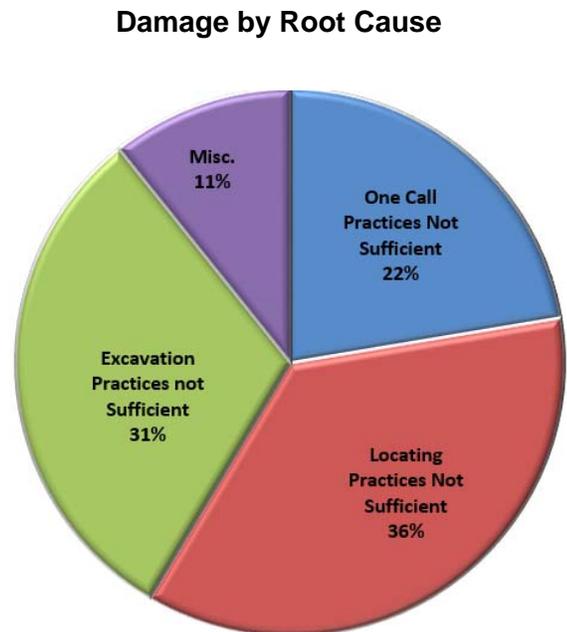
Trends

A total of **643** damage reports were submitted to the DIRT database in the first quarter of 2016. This number represents 59 more reports than were received last quarter, and 75 more than were received in the first quarter of 2015. A couple of duplicate damage events were found, however, they have been left in, as they each list a different root cause.

Root Cause

Locating Practices Not Sufficient jumped from 27 percent last quarter to 36 percent this quarter, with 99 reports stating that the facility was not located or marked and 88 reports citing the marking or location was not sufficient. **Excavation Practices Not Sufficient** accounted for 31 percent of the total damages this quarter, with 100 damage incidents caused by failure to use hand tools where required. **One Call Practices Not Sufficient** represents 22 percent, with 122 reports stating the root cause for the damage was due to “no notification made to one-call center.” As shown below, there were 281 damage reports listing “**no locate request**” was made, yet on 159 reports the person selected another root cause for damage.

Rounding out the field, 89 reports cited “**data not collected**” as a root cause in the **Miscellaneous** category. To provide a clearer picture of the actual cause of damage, we removed those reports from this portion of the analysis. This provides a more accurate visual of the percentage of damage in each category by root cause, and gives a better idea of where to focus outreach and education. After removing the 89 reports, the **Miscellaneous** category makes up the final piece of the pie at 11 percent, with 42 damages identified as “other” and 10 listing the cause of damage attributed to an “abandoned facility.”



LOCATE REQUESTS:

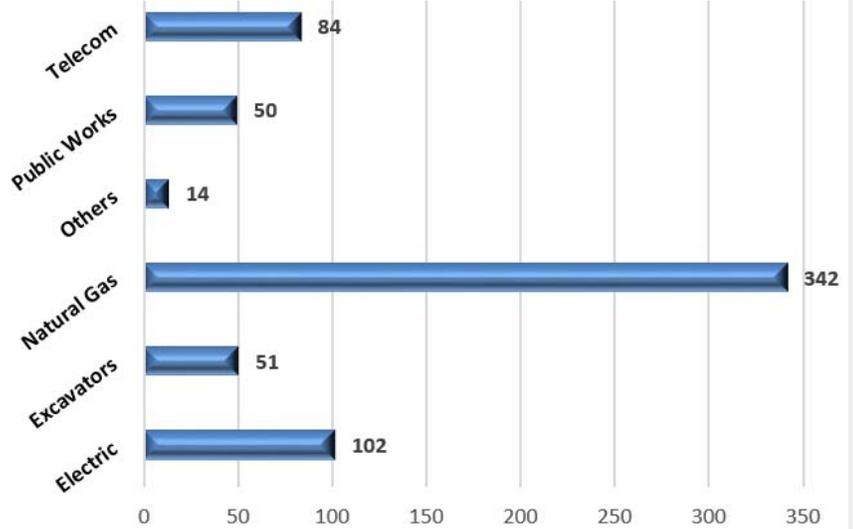
Yes: 362 56%
No: 281 44%

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.

Know what's below.
Call 811 before you dig.

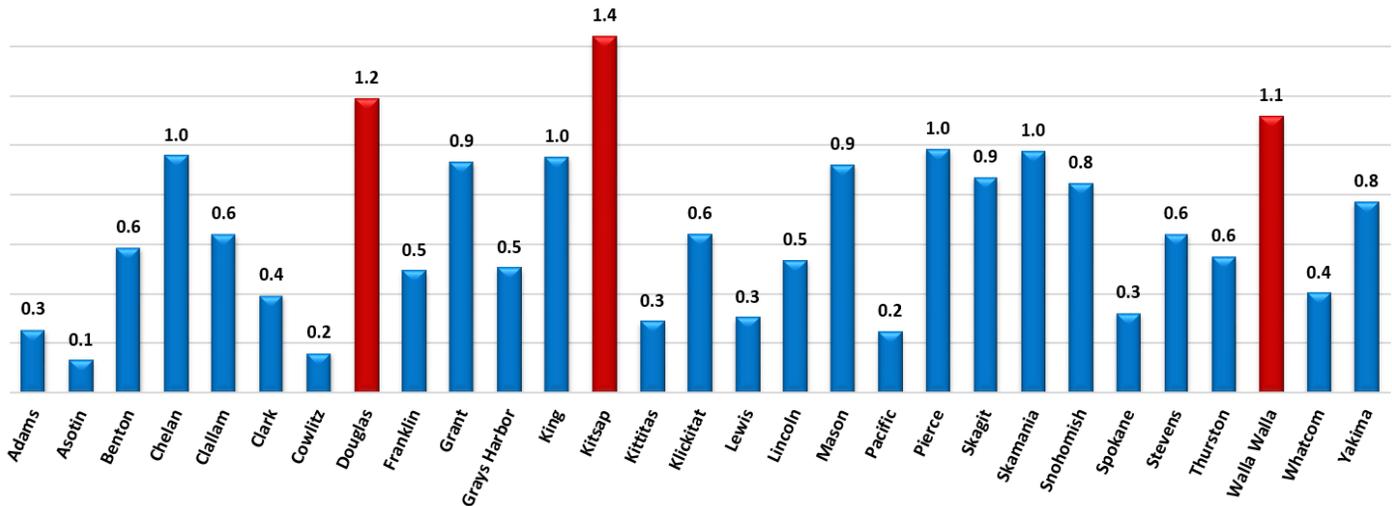
Reporting Stakeholders

Natural gas stakeholders normally submit the bulk of the data, as has been done in this quarter with 342 reports accounting for 53 percent of all damage events. **Electric** companies submitted 87 reports for 15 percent, **Telecommunications** companies submitted 102 reports, for 16 percent, and **Public Works** submitted 50 reports for eight percent, and **Excavators** submitted 51 damage reports for another eight percent. As 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 identify counties that may need additional outreach and or education. **With only three counties over the 1.0 mark, this is the best quarter yet, so keep up the great work in educating about the importance of contacting 811 and safe excavating practices, it does pay off!**



Education

The above graph gives a visual picture to 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](#).

