Introduction
This Washington DIRT report provides a summary and analysis of submitted damage events occurring during the second 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 685 damage reports were submitted to the DIRT database in the second quarter of 2016. This number is three less than were reported for the same quarter in 2015, for a slight improvement. Seven duplicate damage events were found, however, they have been left in the root cause count, as they identified different root causes.

Root Cause
Locating Practices Not Sufficient is at 37 percent this quarter, with 109 reports saying that marking or location was not sufficient and 102 reports citing the facility was not located or marked. Excavation Practices Not Sufficient accounted for 33 percent of the total damages this quarter, with 95 damages caused by failure to use hand tools where required, and 42 stating that excavation practices were not sufficient. One Call Practices Not Sufficient represents 25 percent, with 150 reports stating the root cause for the damage was due to “no notification made to one-call center.” As identified below, there were 266 damage reports listing “no locate request” was made, yet on 116 reports the person selected another root cause for damage. The Miscellaneous category initially accounted for 13 percent, however, 53 reports cite “data not collected” as a root cause. To provide a clearer picture what is actually causing damages, 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 53 reports, the Miscellaneous category takes up five percent, including 28 damage report which identified the root cause as “other.”

LOCATE REQUEST:
Yes: 419 61%
No: 266 39%

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.
Damage Events by County
The chart below identifies damage events by county, per 1,000 locate requests. Previously, we looked at damages per 100 locate requests, however, decided to use the same formula that is currently used by the Common Ground Alliance (CGA), in their evaluation of damages per locate requests. The counties that have more than 10.0 damages per 1,000 locate requests have been highlighted in red to help identify counties that

Education
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 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.