

Washington State Damage Reporting

Q1 2017 DIRT Analysis Jan - March 2017

Introduction

This Washington DIRT report provides a summary and analysis of submitted damage events occurring during the first quarter of 2017. 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 **493** damage reports were submitted to the DIRT database in the first quarter of 2017. This number represents **150 fewer** reports than were received during the first quarter of 2016. There were six duplicate damage events, meaning the facility operator and the excavator both submitted reports. Because of the very small number, both reports for each incident have been left in the analysis, due to each listing a different root cause.

Root Cause

Locating Practices Not Sufficient accounted for 35 percent of the reports received this quarter, with 76 reports stating that the facility was not located or marked, and 78 reports cited the marking or location was not sufficient. **Excavation Practices Not Sufficient** accounts for 31 percent of the total damages this quarter, with 89 stating the damage incidents caused by failure to use hand tools where required, and 29 stating the excavation practices were not sufficient. **One Call Practices Not Sufficient** represents 27 percent, with 122 reports stating the root cause for the damage was due to “no notification made to one-call center.”

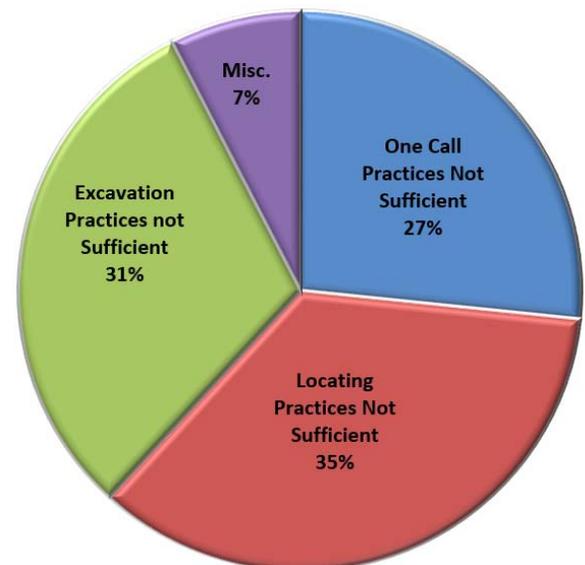
As shown below under Locate Requests, there were 214 damage reports stating “**no locate request**” was made, yet on 92 of those DIRT reports, the person selected a different root cause for damage. Lastly, is the **Miscellaneous** category at 7 percent. Because 16 of those reports used a root cause of “data not collected,” they were removed from this portion of the analysis. This provides a more accurate visual of the percentage of damage in each category by root cause. On a positive note, DIRT submitters are using “data not collected” less frequently. For instance in Q1 of 2016, there were 73 more reports submitted using “data not collected” as a root cause. The effort to provide a clear picture and accurate information about root causes for damage incidents is appreciated and helps with education and outreach.

LOCATE REQUESTS:

Yes: 279 57%
No: 214 43%

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.

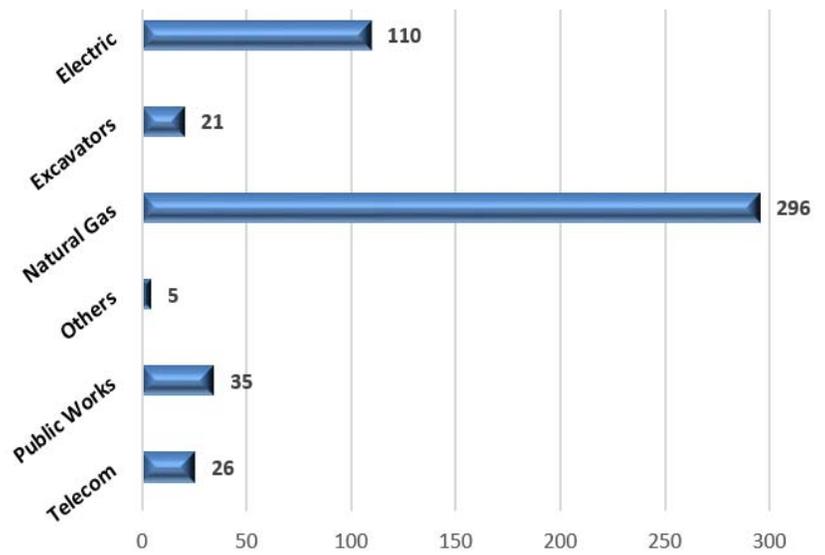
Damage by Root Cause



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

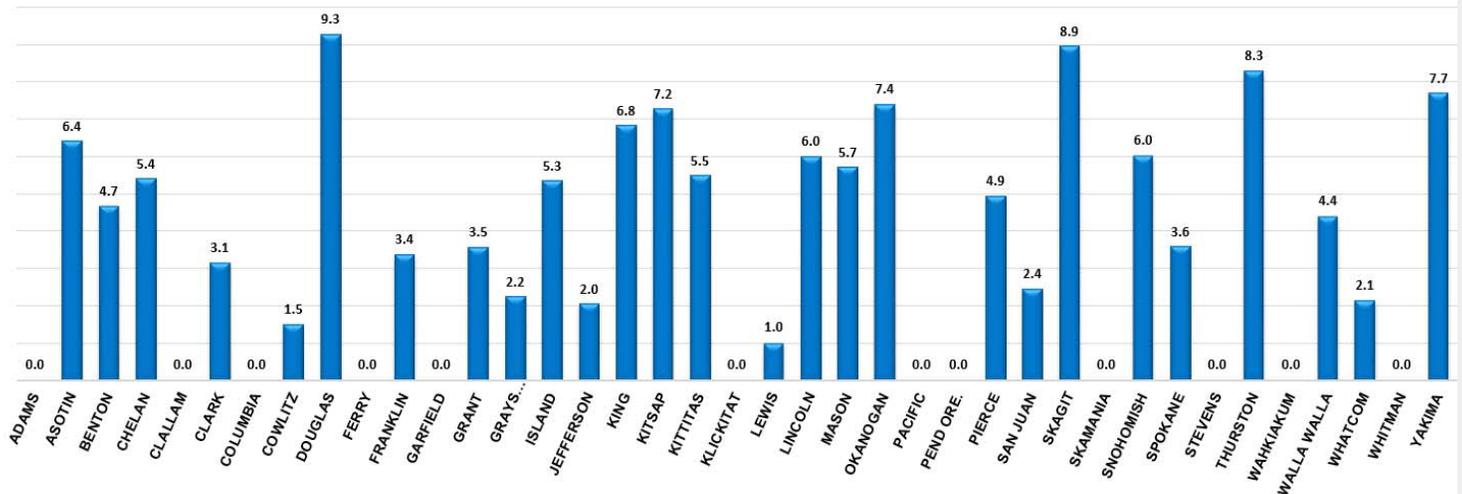
Reporting Stakeholders

Natural gas stakeholders normally submit the bulk of the data, as has been done in this quarter with 296 reports accounting for 60 percent of all damage events. Electric companies submitted 110 reports for 23 percent, Public Works submitted 35 reports for seven percent, and Telecommunications companies submitted 26 reports, for five percent. Excavators submitted only 21 damage reports for another four percent, and Others accounted for the last one percent. Since each damage event should reflect two damage reports, we continue to emphasize the importance of DIRT reporting to all excavators who damage facilities. (RCW 19.122.053) Submitting a damage report is also each party's opportunity to tell their side of the story.



Damage Events by County

The chart below identifies damage events per 1,000 locate requests, by each county in the state. It gives a visual of how each county compares to other counties. We normally highlight counties with more than 10.0 damages per 1,000 locate requests in red, to help identify areas needing more outreach or education. No red was needed this quarter, as it's the first time that every county in the state was below 10.0 since we started tracking the statistic in this manner. We believe it's due to a lot of stakeholder education efforts about contacting 811!



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 you have questions about this report, damage reporting, or would like to request a presentation by the commission, please contact [Lynda Holloway](#).

