Introduction
This Washington DIRT report provides a summary and analysis of submitted damage events occurring during the third 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 965 damage reports were submitted to the DIRT database in the third quarter of 2017. This represents the most damage reports received for one quarter since we began. There were only four duplicate damage events, meaning the facility operator and the excavator both submitted reports, but 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 accounts for 33 percent of the reports received this quarter, with 126 reports stating that the “facility marking or location was not sufficient.” Another 128 reports cited that the “facility was not located or marked.” Excavation Practices Not Sufficient was 31 percent of the total damages this quarter, with 105 reports siting that “excavation practices were not sufficient” and 96 reports stating the damage incidents were caused by “failure to use hand tools where required.”

One Call Practices Not Sufficient was also at 31 percent with 248 reports stating the cause for the damage was due to “no notification made to one-call center.” As shown below under Locate Requests, there were 336 reports that indicated no locate request was made, so on 88 reports the submitter used a different root cause selection.

Lastly, the Miscellaneous category makes up five percent, with 112 reports removed from this root cause analysis due to the submitter using a cause for damage of “data not collected.” Removing them for analysis purposes gives a more accurate visual representation of damage by root cause.

Locate Requests on the 965 Reports:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>65%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sixty-five percent of the 965 DIRT reports showed the excavator made a locate request, which is the highest percentage since we began tracking this data point, and 31,789 more locate requests over the same quarter last year.

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 communication, education and outreach.

Know what's below.
Call 811 before you dig.
Reporting Stakeholders
Natural gas stakeholders generally submit the bulk of the data with 57 percent of all damage events reported in DIRT. Electric companies submitted 144 reports for 15 percent, Public Works submitted 45 reports for five percent, and Telecommunications companies submitted 154 reports, for another 16 percent. Excavators submitted only 48 damage reports for accounting for five percent, and Others accounted for the last two percent with 25 reports. As every damage event should reflect two damage reports, we continue to emphasize the importance of DIRT reporting to all excavators and facility.

Damage Events by County
The chart below provides a visual comparison of damage events by county per 1,000 locate requests. Counties with more than 10.0 damages per 1,000 locate requests are highlighted in red, to help identify areas needing more education or outreach. Ferry and Garfield counties were removed from the graph below because of their high numbers of 24 (Ferry) and 55.6 (Garfield), due to there only being a combined total of 5 damages and only 161 locate requests.

Education
The above graph gives a visual picture to stakeholders with a vested interest in damage prevention, public safety and protecting infrastructure. The numbers above lower with more calls or on-line requests to 811. Please take opportunities to educate others whenever possible about the importance of requesting locates and safe excavation 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.