

Washington State Damage Reporting

Q1 2018 DIRT Analysis Jan - March 2018

Introduction

This Washington Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) report provides a summary and analysis of submitted damage events occurring during the first quarter of 2018. For the most accurate analysis of damage events, it is important that damages are reported to DIRT within the 45 day timeframe set in statute. Any damages occurring during that time and submitted after the 45 days will not be included in this analysis.

Trends

A total of **572** damage reports were submitted to the DIRT database in the first quarter of 2018. Again, there were only a handful of duplicate damage reports, meaning both the facility operator and the excavator submitted reports. However, because of the very small number, both reports for each incident have been left in this analysis, due to different root cause listings.

Root Cause

This category will have a new look starting with this report. Last year, the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) made modifications to the DIRT report form, which replaced the old form effective beginning Jan. 1, 2018. Root cause descriptions were revised for more clarity and new choices were added for more meaningful analysis.

Notification Issue accounted for 34 percent of the total damages this quarter with 163 reports stating that no notification had been made to the one-call center/811. Under Locate Requests (see below), there were 200 reports that indicated no locate request was made, so this indicates that in this category the submitter used a different root cause on 37 reports.

Excavation Issue accounts for 26 percent of the reports received this quarter with causes as follows: Improper excavation practices 61; Excavator failed to maintain clearance 31; and Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole 64.

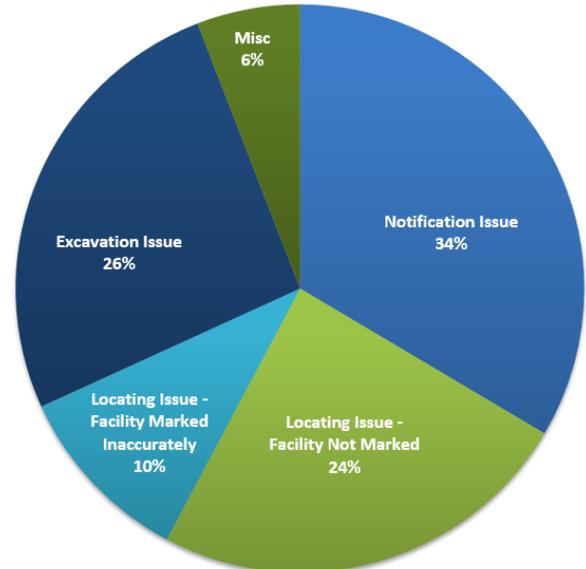
Locating Issue - Facility Not Marked was 24 percent of the total with 85 reports stating the facility damaged was not marked due to locator error, and 13 reports stating it was because of incorrect facility records/maps.

Locating Issue - Facility Marked Inaccurately is identified as 10 percent with 45 reports listing that the facility was marked inaccurately due to locator error.

Miscellaneous category makes up the last six percent with 21 reports identifying that a root cause was not listed in the other categories, and seven reports stating that there was previous damage. Additionally, we removed 44 reports for this portion of the analysis that were submitted without any root cause.

Submitters should always try to determine a root cause when submitting DIRT reports. By doing so, it will help identify where education and outreach efforts need to be focused.

Damage by Root Cause



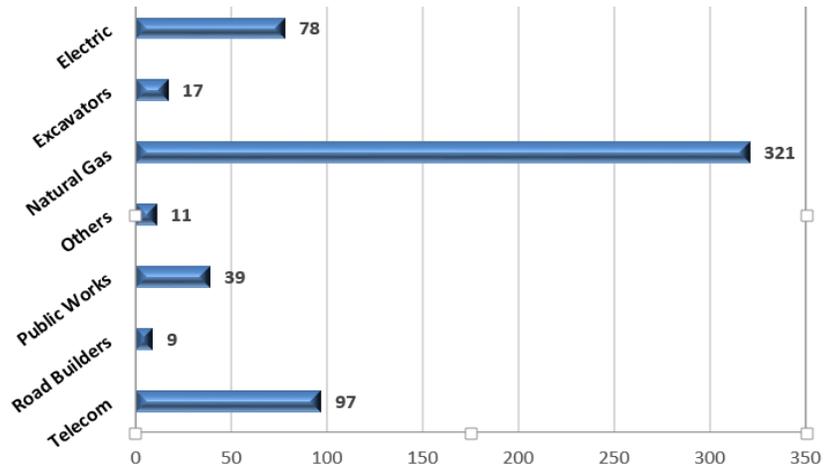
LOCATE REQUESTS FOR THE 572 REPORTS:

372—YES a locate was requested 65%

200—NO a locate was not requested 35%

Reporting Stakeholders

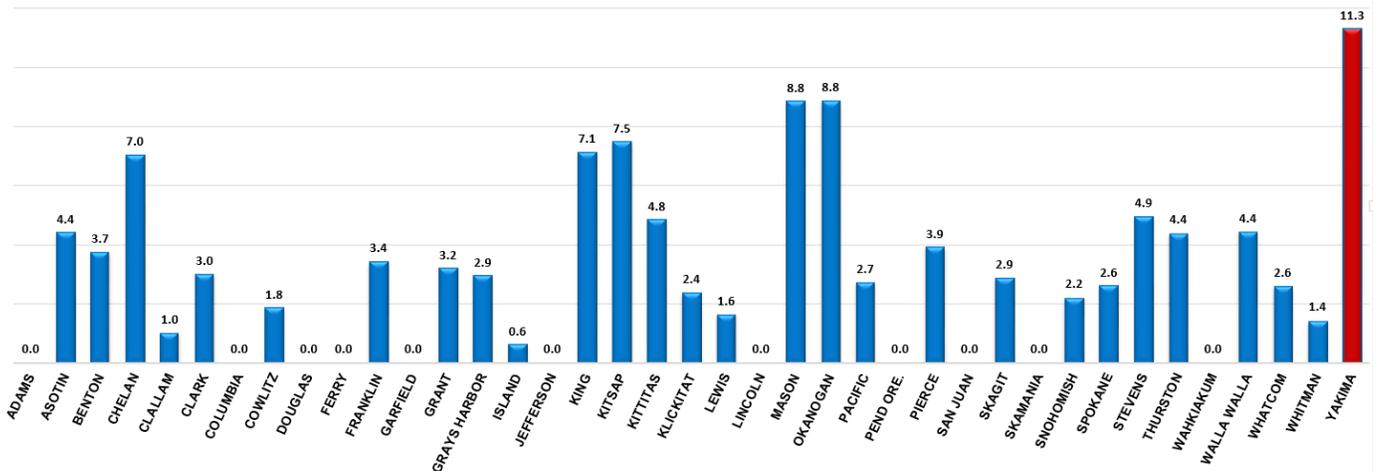
Natural gas stakeholders submitted the bulk of the damage data, in the first quarter of 2018 with 56 percent of the damage reports, **Telecom** companies submitted 17 percent, **Electric** companies submitted 14 percent, **Public Works** submitted six percent, **Others** accounted for four percent with 11, and **Excavators** submitted three percent. As every damage event should reflect two damage reports, we continue to emphasize the importance of DIRT reporting to all excavators and facility operators who damage facilities.



Damage Events by County

The chart below provides a visual comparison of **damage incidents by county, per 1,000 incoming locate requests**. Counties with more than 10 damages per 1,000 locate requests are highlighted in red, to help identify areas needing more education or outreach. If you have been watching this data point, you will know that progress that has been made. In the third quarter of 2015 there were 11 counties over 10.0 damages per 1,000 locates (although we measured it then by 100 locates). Now that number has dropped to just one county over that threshold! To keep stretching for our goal of reducing damages further, we will drop the number to 7.0 damages per 1,000 locates for the next quarter, which will help us identify additional counties that would benefit from outreach and education.

Damages by County per 1,000 Locate Requests



Education

The above graph gives a fantastic visual picture of what can happen when stakeholders work together 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](#).

