Introduction
This Washington Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) report provides a summary and analysis of submitted damage events occurring during the second 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 746 damage reports were submitted to the DIRT database in the second quarter of 2018. Again, there were only a handful of duplicate damage reports, meaning both the facility operator and the excavator submitted reports. Because of this very small number, both reports for each incident have been left in this analysis due to different root cause listings.

Root Cause
Examining the root cause for damage incidents provides valuable information in preventing future damage. When filing DIRT reports, we always encourage thoughtful determination of the actual root cause. This gives everyone who evaluates DIRT reports the best opportunity to provide accurate analysis of the reasons for the damage.

Notification Issue accounted for 35 percent of the total damages this quarter with 198 reports stating that no notification had been made to the one-call center/811. Under Locate Requests (see below), there were 267 reports that indicate no locate request was made, showing that the submitter used a different root cause on 69 reports.

Excavation Issue accounts for 33 percent of the reports received this quarter with causes as follows: Improper excavation practices 84; Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole 51; and Excavator failed to maintain clearance 49.

Locating Issue - Facility Not Marked was 16 percent of the total with 63 reports stating the facility damaged was not marked due to locator error, and 15 reports stating it was because of incorrect facility records/maps. This category was at 24 percent in the first quarter, marking an improvement for locators in this quarter.

Locating Issue - Facility Marked Inaccurately is identified as 14 percent with 81 reports listing that the facility was marked inaccurately due to locator error.

Miscellaneous category makes up the last two percent with 90 reports identifying that a root cause was not listed in the other categories, and 11 reports stating that there was previous damage. 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.

LOCATE REQUESTS FOR THE 572 REPORTS:
479 — YES a locate was requested 64%
267 — NO locate was requested 36%
Reporting Stakeholders
Natural gas stakeholders normally submit the bulk of the damage data, and this quarter is no exception. In the second quarter of 2018, natural gas submitted 65 percent of the damage reports. Telecom companies submitted 11 percent, Electric companies submitted 14 percent, Public Works submitted three percent, Others accounted for two percent with 15, and Excavators submitted four percent with 26 reports submitted. 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. We previously highlighted counties that were over 10 damages per 1,000 locate requests, then focused training and education in those counties. If you have been watching this data point, you will know that progress has been made, and that education and outreach by many stakeholders has worked. We are now highlighting counties with more than seven damages per 1,000 locate requests, to help identify places that can also benefit from education, advertising, or outreach. We believe this data point helps visually show the importance of continuing to stretch towards our goal of reducing damages further, and make more people aware of the importance of calling or clicking 811.

Education
The above graph gives a fantastic visual picture of what can happened 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.