

# Washington State Damage Reporting

## Q1 2020 DIRT Analysis Jan. - March 2020



### Introduction

This Washington Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) report provides a summary and analysis of submitted damage events occurring during the first quarter of 2020. 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.

### Trends

Damages are down again this quarter when compared to the Q1 reports over the last two years. A total of **399** DIRT reports were submitted, compared to 572 in 2018 and 429 in 2019. Because of the small number of duplicate damage reports, where both the facility operator and the excavator reported damages, we have left them in the analysis, as each report typically lists a different root cause for the damage.

### Root Cause

Examining the root cause for damage incidents provides valuable information in preventing future damage. When filing DIRT reports, we strongly encourage thoughtful determination of the actual cause. This gives everyone who evaluates DIRT reports the best opportunity to determine where improvements can be made in their organization.

**One Call Notification Issue** is at 35 percent of the total damages this quarter with 111 reports stating that there was **no notification made to the one-call center/811** and 14 citing that the **excavator dug after a valid ticket expired**. However, 144 of the total reports submitted state there was no locate request (see bottom of page). This shows that on 33 reports, the submitter chose a different root cause for the damage. Yet, without marks on the ground, excavators are digging in the blind and have a higher chance of damaging utilities or injury.

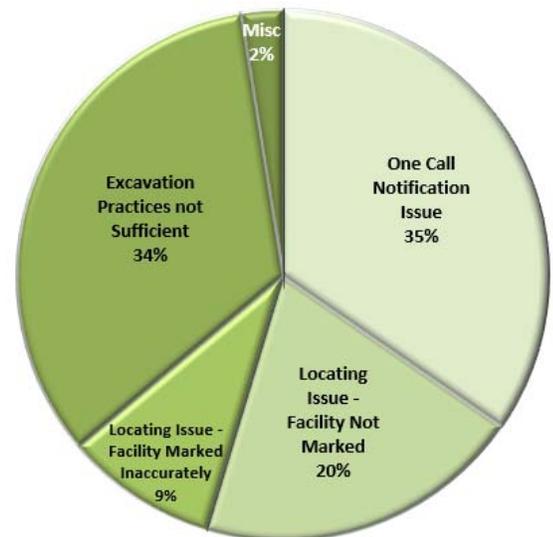
**Excavation Practices** dropped this quarter to 34 percent of the reports being submitted under this category, with 54 reports stating **improper excavation practices** as the reason for the damage. In addition, there were 28 reports stating that the **excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole** and 24 saying the **marks were faded, lost or not maintained**.

**Locating Issue - Facility Not Marked** is at 20 percent of the total, with 54 reports stating the damage was due to **locator error by not marking**, and 13 damages due to the facility not being marked because of **incorrect facility records/maps**.

**Locating Issue - Facility Marked Inaccurately** is at nine percent of the reports submitted with 23 listing that the facility was **marked inaccurately due to locator error**.

The **Miscellaneous** category brings up the last two percent with five reports stating there was **Previous Damage** and four reports identifying that the **Root cause was not listed** in any of the other categories. Submitters should always try to determine a root cause when submitting DIRT reports, as it helps identify where education and outreach efforts should be focused.

DAMAGE BY ROOT CAUSE

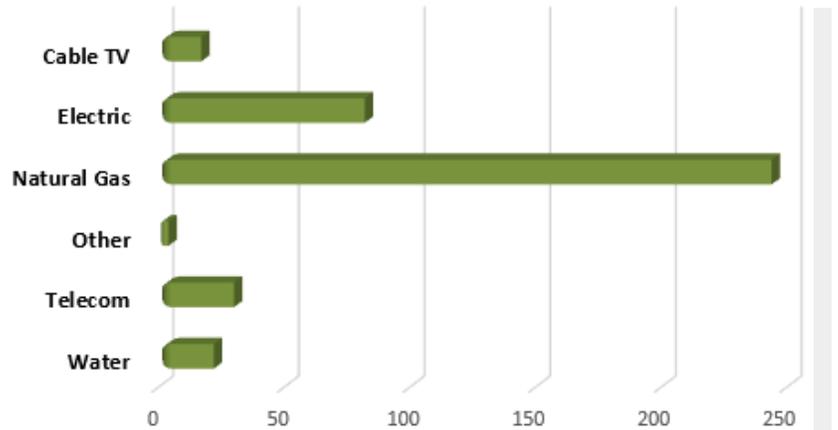


### LOCATE REQUESTS FOR THE 399 REPORTS:

255 — YES a locate was requested	64%
144 — NO locate was requested	36%

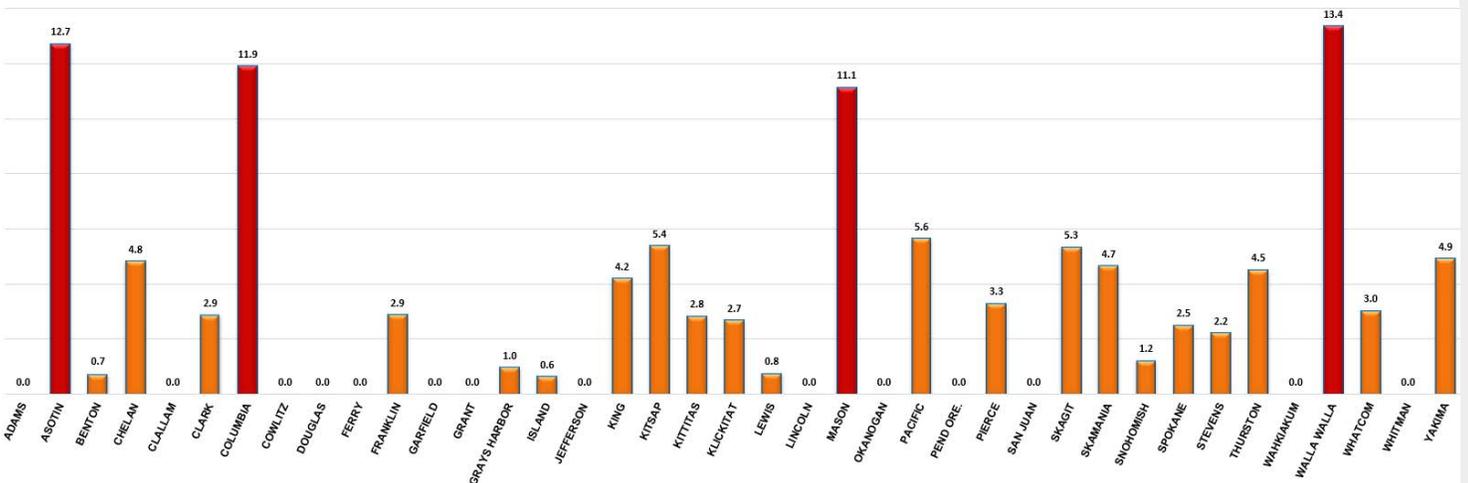
## Facilities Damaged

Damage to **Natural Gas** services accounted for 61 percent of the DIRT reports received this quarter with 244 reports. **Electric** damage was at 21 percent with 82 damage reports. **Telecommunications** were down to eight percent with 30 damage reports, and **Water** damages came in at 22 damages for five percent. Additionally, there were 17 damages for **Cable TV** and only four listed in the **Other** category. This category includes sewer and liquid pipelines.



## Damage Events by County

The chart below provides a visual comparison of damage incidents by county, per 1,000 incoming locate requests. We look at the data this way so it can be normalized between the large and smaller counties. Counties highlight in red have more than **seven** damages per 1,000 locate requests. This helps to identify places that can benefit from education, advertising, or training.



## Education

This report was created to provide a snapshot of where damage prevention stakeholders can work together to reduce damage. By promoting the importance of calling or making online locate requests, then using safe excavation practices, damages can be reduced.

## Training

With COVID-19 concerns and restrictions, we can no longer hold in person Dig Safe or Locator trainings. However, we have contracted with Staking University to provide **online Locator Training** and are hoping to roll out online Dig Safe Training within the next few weeks.

These trainings are completely free to the participant. To sign-up for online Locator training, go to the UTC's training portal at: <https://utc-9183.quickbase.com/db/bpkt6vndh>. As soon as we are able to provide Dig Safe training, it will also be posted on the portal.

If you have questions about this report, damage reporting, or online training, please contact [Lynda Holloway](#).

