Introduction
This Washington Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) report provides a summary and analysis of submitted damage events occurring during the fourth quarter of 2017. 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 602 damage reports were submitted to the DIRT database in the fourth quarter of 2017. This represents the most damage reports received in the fourth quarter since 2014, where 629 reports were received. 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
Excavation Practices Not Sufficient was 33 percent of the total damages this quarter, with the top three root causes noted:
Insufficient excavation practices 73
Failure to use hand tools where required 70
Failure to maintain the marks 19
Locating Practices Not Sufficient accounts for 32 percent of the reports received this quarter with causes as follows:
Facility was not located or marked 99
Facility marking or location insufficient 64
Incorrect facility records/maps 11
One Call Practices Not Sufficient was 29 percent of the total with 162 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 219 reports that indicated no locate request was made, meaning the submittter used a different root cause for the incident on 57 reports.
Lastly, the Miscellaneous category makes up six percent, with 27 identifying “other” as a root cause. We have removed 26 reports from this root cause analysis because the submitter used the root cause of “data not collected.” Removing them from this portion of the analysis gives a more accurate representation of damage by 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.**

LOCATE REQUESTS ON THE 602 REPORTS:
383—YES 64%
219—NO 36%

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.
Reporting Stakeholders
Natural gas stakeholders submit the bulk of the damage data, and in the fourth quarter submitted 57 percent of all damage events with 345 reports. Electric companies submitted 113 reports for 19 percent, Public Works submitted 36 reports for six percent, and Telecommunications companies submitted 63 reports, for 11 percent. Excavators submitted 32 damage reports for accounting for only five percent, and Others accounted for the last two percent with 13 reports. 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 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. The exciting news here is that there are only two counties over the threshold. Even more exciting is that we have NUCA Dig Safe certification training (40 people signed-up) and Staking University Utility Locator training (30 people are signed-up) scheduled in Yakima on March 21-23, 2018.

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.