Washington State Damage Reporting

Q2 2016 DIRT Analysis April - June 2016

WASHINGTON UTC UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

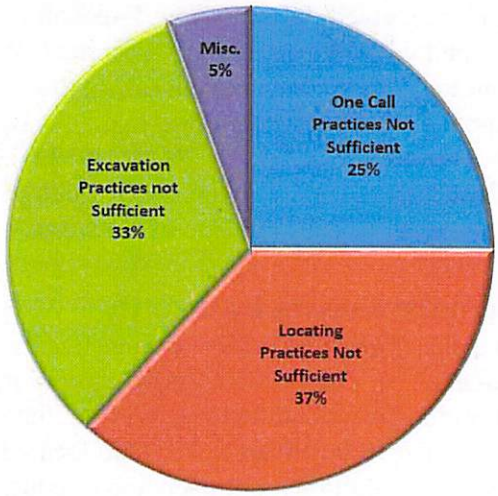
Introduction

This Washington DIRT report provides a summary and analysis of submitted damage events occurring during the **second quarter of 2016**. 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 **685** damage reports were submitted to the DIRT database in the second quarter of 2016. This number is three less than were reported for the same quarter in 2015, for a slight improvement. Seven duplicate damage events were found, however, they have been left in the root cause count, as they identified different root causes.

Damage by Root Cause



Root Cause

Locating Practices Not Sufficient is at 37 percent this quarter, with 109 reports saying that marking or location was not sufficient and 102 repots citing the facility was not located or marked. **Excavation Practices Not Sufficient** accounted for 33 percent of the total damages this quarter, with 95 damages caused by failure to use hand tools where required, and 42 stating that excavation practices were not sufficient. **One Call Practices Not Sufficient** represents 25 percent, with 150 reports stating the root cause for the damage was due to "no notification made to one-call center." As identified below, there were 266 damage reports listing "**no locate request**" was made, yet on 159 reports the person selected another root cause for damage. Rounding out the field, 89 reports cited "**data not collected**" as a root cause in the **Miscellaneous** category. To provide a clearer picture of the actual cause of damage, we removed those reports from this portion of the analysis. This provides a more accurate visual of the percentage of damage in each category by root cause, and gives a better idea of where to focus outreach and education. After removing the 89 reports, the **Miscellaneous** category makes up the final piece of the pie at 11 percent, with 42 damages identified as "other" and 10 listing the cause of damage attributed to an "abandoned facility."

LOCATE REQUEST:

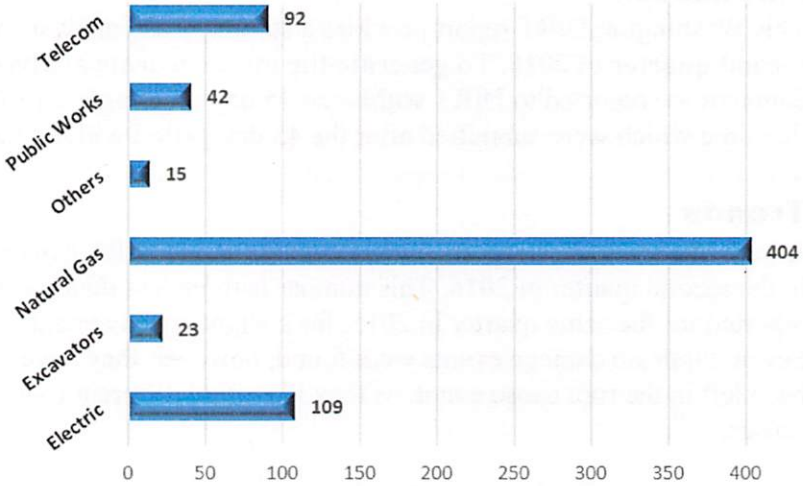
Yes:	419	61%
No:	266	39%

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 education and outreach.

Know what's below.
Call 811 before you dig.

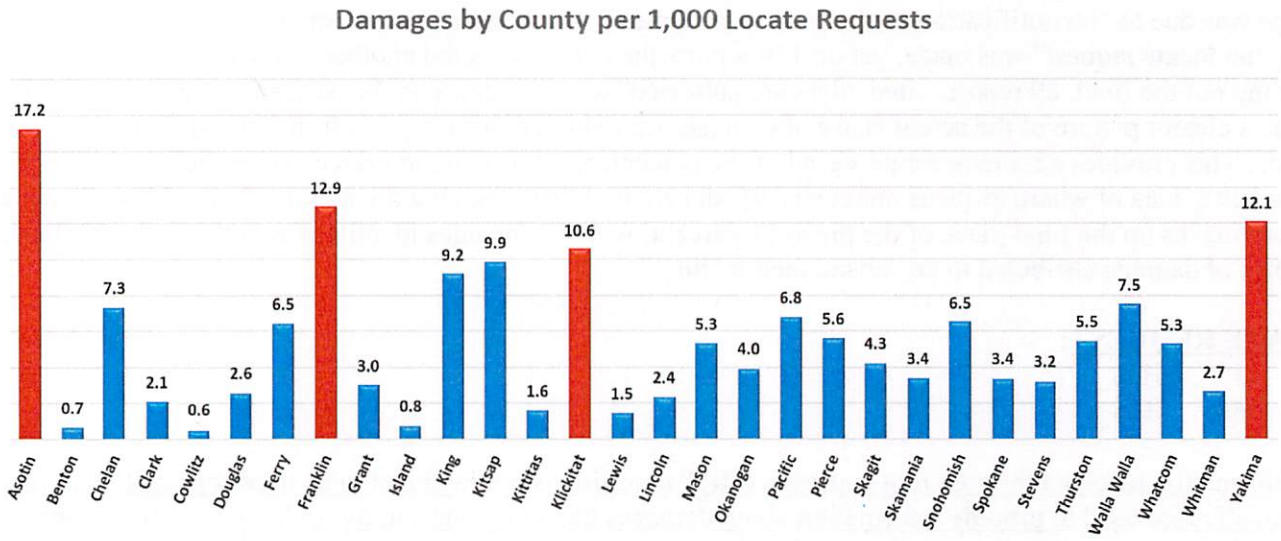
Reporting Stakeholders

Natural gas stakeholders reported 404 damage reports, accounting for 59 percent of the reports received. Of those reports, 395 were related to natural gas and 9 were associated with damage other utilities. **Electric** companies submitted 103 reports for 16 percent, **Telecommunications** companies submitted 92 reports, for 14 percent, and **Public Works** submitted 42 reports for six percent of the reports received. Reports from **Excavators** dropped with only 23 reports submitted. We want to continue to put emphasis on the importance of DIRT reporting to all excavators who damage facilities, per **RCW 19.122.053**. Submitting a damage report is also each party's opportunity to tell their side of the story.



Damage Events by County

The chart below identifies damage events by county, per 1,000 locate requests. Previously, we looked at damages per 100 locate requests, however, decided to use the same formula that is currently used by the Common Ground Alliance (CGA), in their evaluation of damages per locate requests. The counties that have more than 10.0 damages per 1,000 locate requests have been highlighted in red to help identify counties that may need additional outreach and or education.



Education

Please take advantage of any opportunity you may have to educate others about the Call Before You Dig program and safe digging practices. You can also provide the commission's contact information to anyone who is unaware of the requirements in RCW 19.122, or in need of information about damage reporting. If your organization would like to arrange a presentation by the commission, or if you have questions about this report or damage reporting in general, contact Lynda Holloway.