Washington State Damage Reporting

Q3 2015 DIRT Analysis July - Sept. 2015

WASHINGTON UTC UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Introduction

This Washington DIRT report provides a summary and analysis of submitted damage events occurring during the third quarter of 2015. 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 **1018** damage reports were submitted to the DIRT database in the third quarter of 2015. This number represents 150 more reports than were received in the second quarter, and our highest number since we began analyzing DIRT statistics in 2013. Duplicate reports were found for 14 damage incidents which fell into two categories of seven each: Utilities damaged by Public Works, and Utilities damaged by Excavators. Not surprising, several duplicate reports cite different root causes for the same damage incident.

Because the **Miscellaneous** category continues to be a problem due to 152 damage reports listing "**data not collected**," we are using two graphs to represent Damages by Root Cause. The graph on top includes all DIRT reports received for this quarter. The graph on the bottom removes the "data not collected" reports, to provide a clearer picture about the actual causes of damage by root cause in each category.

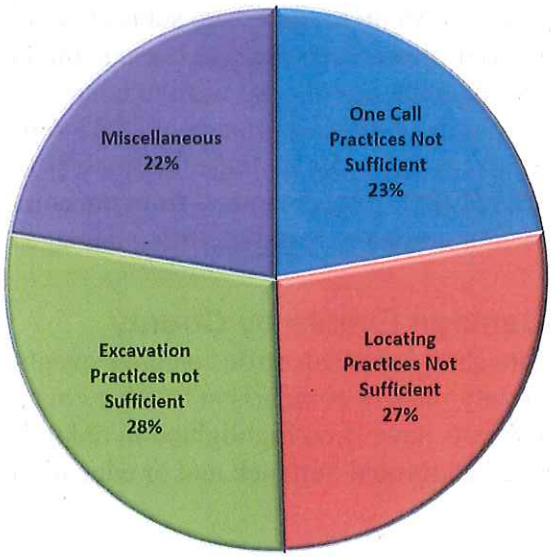
Excavation Practices Not Sufficient accounted for 33 percent of the total damages, with 171 incidents caused by "failure to use hand tools where required." **Locating practices not sufficient** accounts for 32 percent, with 160 damage incidents citing the "facility was not located or marked" and 102 incidents of "facility marking or location not sufficient." **One Call Notification Practices Not Sufficient** captures the final 26 percent, with 223 damage events stating "no notification made to one-call center" listed as the root cause for the damage. As shown below, there were 369 damage reports listing "**no locate request**" was made, however, the person submitting the report still has the option of selecting another root cause of the damage incident from another category.

LOCATE REQUESTS:

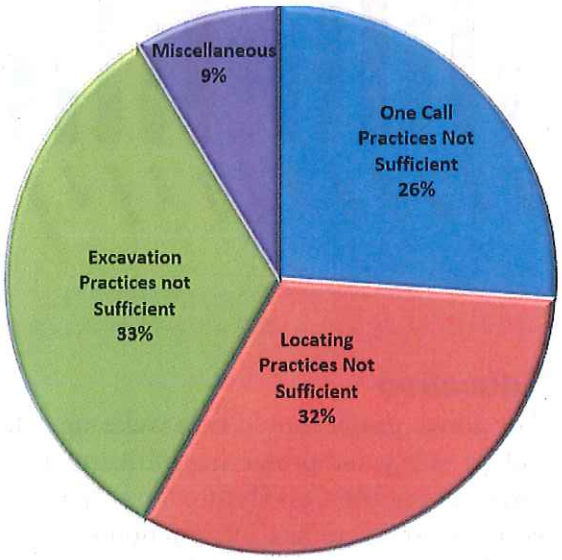
Yes:	649	64%
No:	369	36%

The information received through root causes in DIRT reporting is not intended to be used for punitive purposes. The statistics are used to make the system better and identify needs or opportunities to develop better education and outreach.

Damage by Root Cause



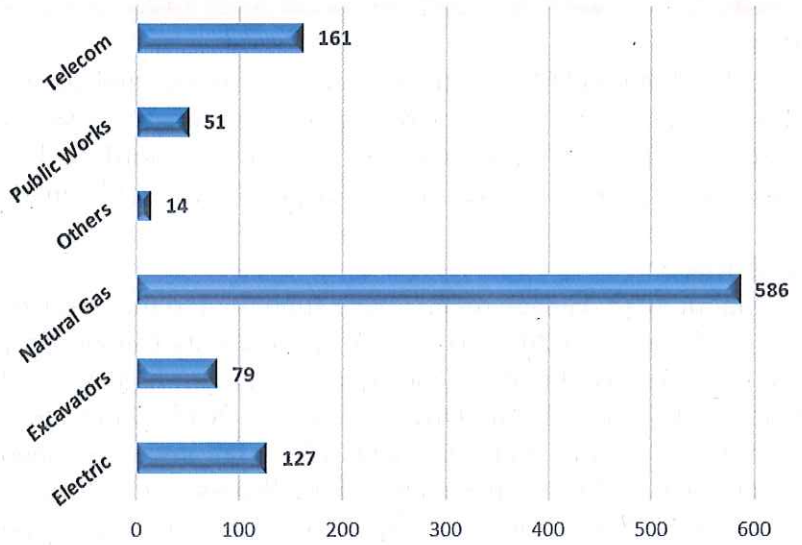
Damage by Root Cause Without "Data Not Collected" Reports



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

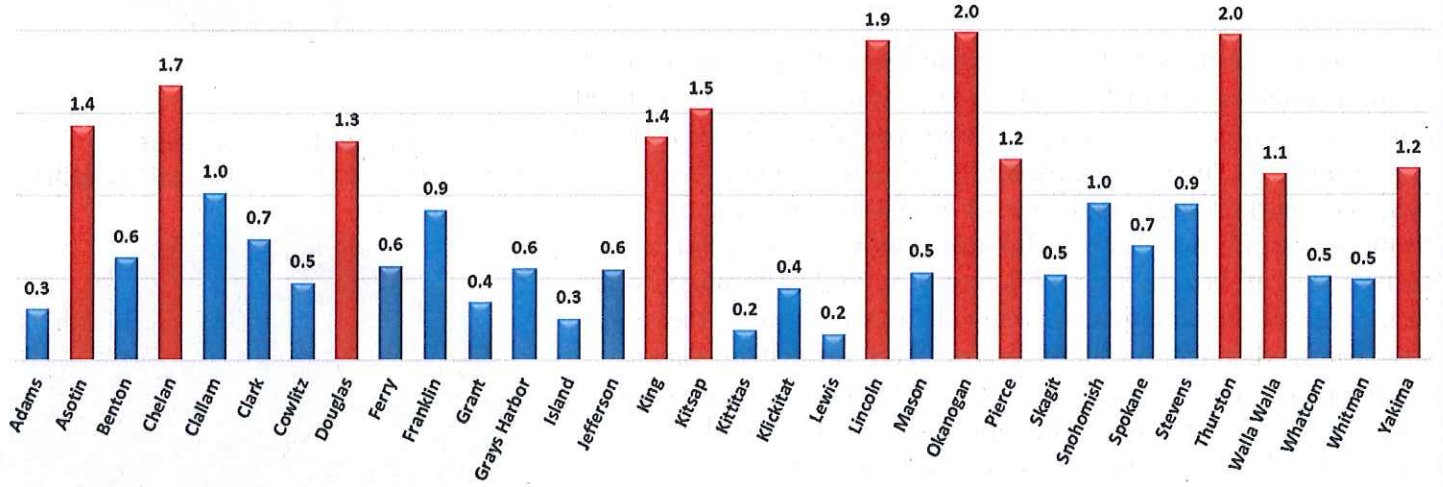
Reporting Stakeholders

Natural gas stakeholders again submitted the bulk of the data with 586 reports accounting for 58 percent of all damage events filed this quarter (with 57 reports related to non-gas utilities). **Electric** companies submitted 127 reports for 12 percent, **Telecommunications** companies submitted 161 reports, for 16 percent, and **Public Works** submitted 51 reports for five percent. **Excavators** submitted 79 damage reports, which is 35 more than were submitted last quarter. Since each damage event should reflect two damage reports, we want to continue to put emphasis on the importance of DIRT reporting to all excavators who damage facilities, per **RCW 19.122.053**. Expect **contact from the commission** if your company is **not** reporting damages.



Damage Events by County

The chart below identifies damage events by county, per 100 locate requests, and gives a visual of how each county rates in comparison to other counties. The counties that have more than 1.0 damages per 100 locate requests have been highlighted in red to help the commission and other stakeholders identify counties that may need additional outreach and or education.



Education

The above graph should be a wake-up call for all stakeholders with a vested interest in damage prevention, public safety and protecting infrastructure. 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 outlined 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.