



# Dig Law Update

June 7, 2013

Utilities and Transportation Commission

Volume 2, Issue 1

## Dig Law Questions?

**Law Questions and Outreach**  
(360) 664-1118

**Locate Problem**  
(888) 333-9882

**Call Before You Dig**  
811 or [callbeforeyoudig.org](http://callbeforeyoudig.org)

PO Box 47250  
1300 S Evergreen Park Dr. SW  
Olympia WA 98504  
[www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov)

### UTC Mission

The UTC regulates the services of privately or investor owned utility and transportation companies. Our mission is to ensure that services are fairly priced, available, reliable and safe.

## Providing Available Info

When providing excavators with “available information” as to the location of unlocatable facilities, including laterals, remember it needs to be “the *best* reasonably available records. . .” per 19.122.030(4)(b)(iii), not just the most convenient. The goal is to provide the excavator with something detailed enough it can actually be helpful in determining where those facilities might be located.

## First Quarter Damage

Hot off the press, the first report using our DIRT damage data is here! See what our first quarter damages look like and what it means for Washington’s overall damage picture. The results may surprise you. To view the report, [click here](#).

## Damage Reporting—It’s Mandatory!

Don’t forget you now are required to report damages to the commission within 45 calendar days. There are currently only 200 companies subscribed to the commission’s DIRT—only a fraction of the utilities and excavators operating in Washington. If you have not already registered with the commission’s VirtualDIRT, [click here](#). **If you have registered, it is important that you “share” your DIRT data.** If you do not share your data, the commission will not receive your reports and they will not be included in Washington’s damage statistics. To share your data, company administrators need to select the “Grant Data” option on the main menu. For more detailed instructions, [click here](#). DIRT can be accessed via a link on the [commission’s website](#). If you have any questions regarding DIRT, sharing data or the new requirement, contact [Anna Gill](#).



## Safety Committee Update

If you have a complaint regarding violations of the dig law as of Jan. 1, [file a complaint](#) with the Dig Law Safety Committee. This is your recourse if others are not following the law. Keep in mind, complaints brought to the committee will be heard at the next quarterly meeting. You will be required to present your case either in person or via telephone and provide documentation to support your claim. The committee is also charged with advising government entities, including the Legislature, about best practices, training and policies to enhance public safety. If you have any issues you would like to see the committee address, contact them via the [Washington Utilities Coordinating Council](#).

## Damage Prevention—Yee haw!

Damage prevention is a shared responsibility and thanks to the sponsorship of charismatic rodeo clown, JJ Harrison, by 14 Pipeline Association of Washington (PAW) members, the 811 message is making an exciting appearance at rodeos throughout the western half of the country. [Click here](#) to see JJ Harrison and his *explosive* act for yourself!



## Question of the Month

With the new law now in effect, the commission thought it would be helpful to publish questions and hot topics pertaining to the new dig law in each update. Remember, the commission is here to help with any questions or issues you might have.

**Q: To get around the “large project” stipulation, can I call in multiple tickets under 700 linear feet?**

**A: No.** The large project stipulation in the law, 19.122.030(2), speaks to both large projects and multiple sites. By calling in multiple tickets for the same project you are not meeting the *intent* or *spirit* of the law and are ultimately not in compliance. Remember, these changes were added to foster communication and help all parties. Requiring utilities to mark large areas in two business days is not realistic. It is important both excavators and utilities work together to come up with a solution to the marking needs of the project that is acceptable for all involved.

If you have any questions regarding this answer, or about RCW 19.122 in general, contact [Anna Gill](#).

## Publications

The commission has a number of publications outlining changes to the dig law for each stakeholder group. To view these resources, [click here](#).

