



2014 End of Year Analysis

This report provides a summary and analysis of damage events occurring during 2014, and a brief description about dig law complaints. To generate the most accurate analysis of damage events, it is important that damages are reported to Washington's Damage Incident Reporting Tool (DIRT) within the 45 day timeframe set forth in the statute. It is also important to provide as much relevant information as possible about damage events, so the data can be used to help focus outreach and education where it is most needed.



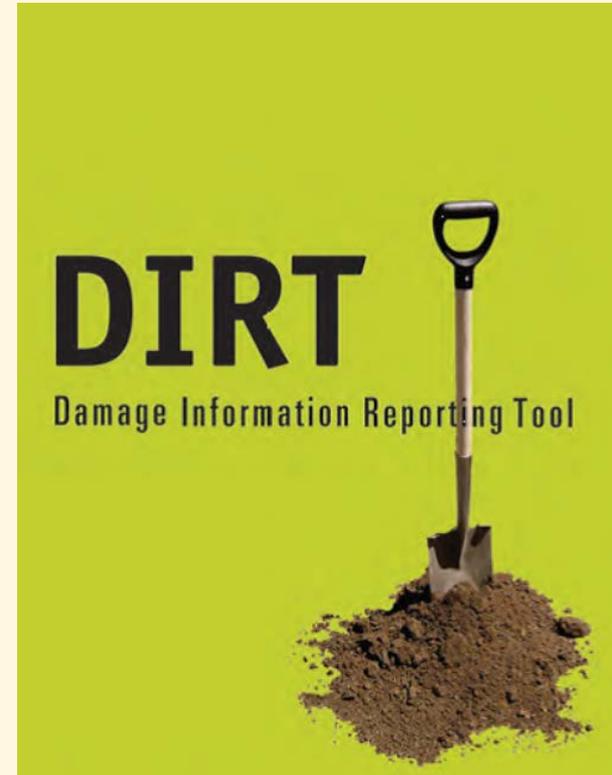
Damage Reporting

Subscribers: **334**

Damage Reports: **3,381**

Who is reporting:

- Electric: 556
- Engineer/Design: 13
- Excavator: 161
- Liquid Pipeline: 2
- Natural Gas: 1,577
- Private Water: 16
- Public Works: 208
- Telecommunications: 812
- Other: 17
- Road Builders: 19



The single largest reporting issue is lack of duplicate reports. Of the 3,381 reports submitted, only 161 of those were from excavators. As the statute is written, both excavator and facility operator should be submitting reports for each damage event.



Damage Picture

Damaged Facilities:

- Cable TV: 48
- Electric: 465
- Liquid Pipeline: 1
- Natural Gas: 1,482
- Sewer: 49
- Telecommunications: 1,146
- Water: 175
- Other: 15

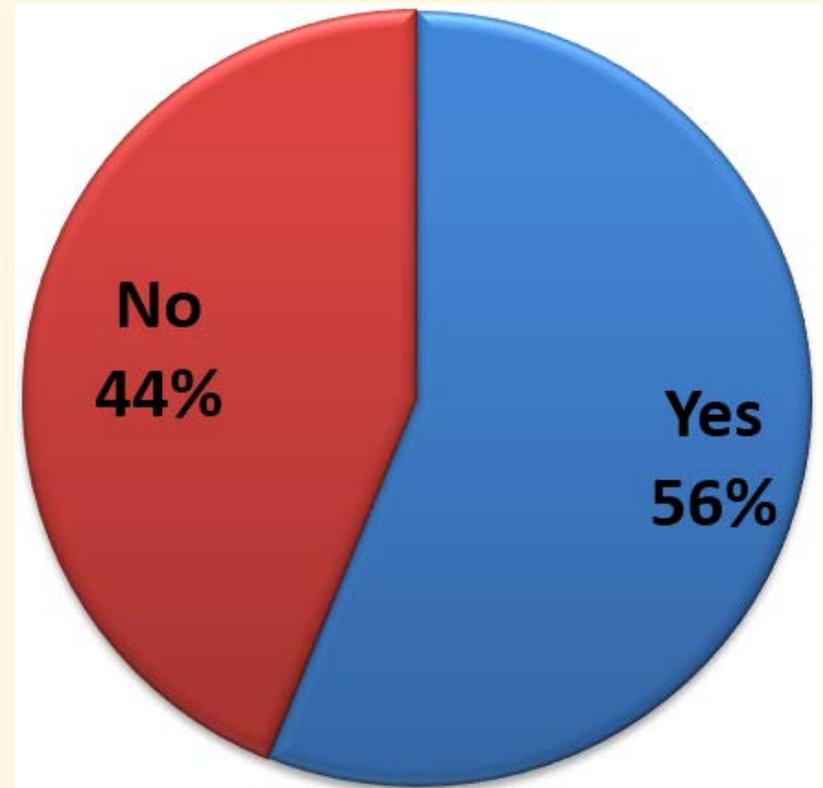




Locate Requests

Of the 3,381 DIRT damage reports submitted, **44%** or 1,481, list that there was **No Locate Request**. This is a **7%** increase over 2013.

Note: This is separate data point from Root Cause. While a person may list that no locate was performed, they also have the option of identifying the actual root cause of the damage incident in another category.





Damage Picture

Excavation Practices Not Sufficient

account for 30 percent of the 2014 damages, with 459 damages reports listing "Failure to Use Hand Tools" as the main reason for the damage.

Miscellaneous Root Cause jumped up to 27 percent, due to 652 damage reports identifying the root cause as "Data Not Collected." As 533 of those reports were

submitted by telecommunications stakeholders we believe this category can be greatly reduced with thoughtful entry of the actual cause of the damage incident.

Locating Practices Not Sufficient

accounts for 24 percent, with 405 reports stating the "Facility Was Not Located or Marked" and another 357 saying the "Facility Marking or Location Not Sufficient."

One Call Practices Not Sufficient takes the last 19 percent with 618 incidents of "No Notification Made to One-Call Center."

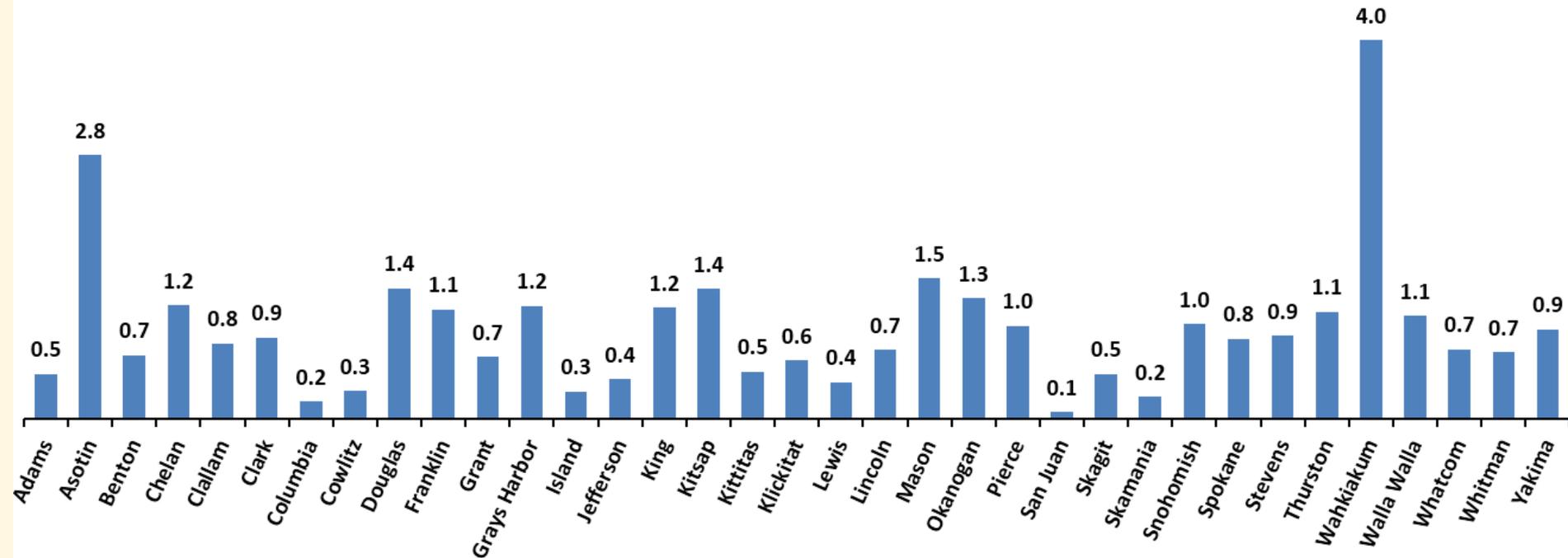
Root Cause of Damage





Damages by County per 100 Locate Requests

Damages by County per 100 Locate Requests





2014 Safety Committee Reviews and Referrals

In 2014, the Washington Dig Law Safety Committee received 34 complaints of alleged violations of RCW 19.122.

Six of the complaints were reviewed by the Safety Committee, which resulted in eight recommendation referrals to the Utilities & Transportation Commission (commission).

Of those referrals, \$7,500 was collected through penalty assessment fines. In addition, six companies were fined \$1,000 in penalty assessments, with the option of suspending the fine on the condition that they attending a Dig Safe Certification training, and commit no further violations of RCW 19.122 for a period of one year.

The fines are deposited into a damage prevention account which can only be used for educational purposes to improve worker and public safety, relating to excavation and underground utilities.

We believe the number of complaints reviewed will rise each year, as more people become aware of the option of contacting the Safety Committee to assist in disputes involving violations of RCW 19.122. For this reason, the commission is considering a proposal to change the law to allow investigation of violations of RCW 19.122 related to utilities regulated by the commission.

