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## 2015 End of Year Analysis

This report provides a summary and analysis of damage events occurring during 2015, 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. Reports received after that timeframe are not included in this report. 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.



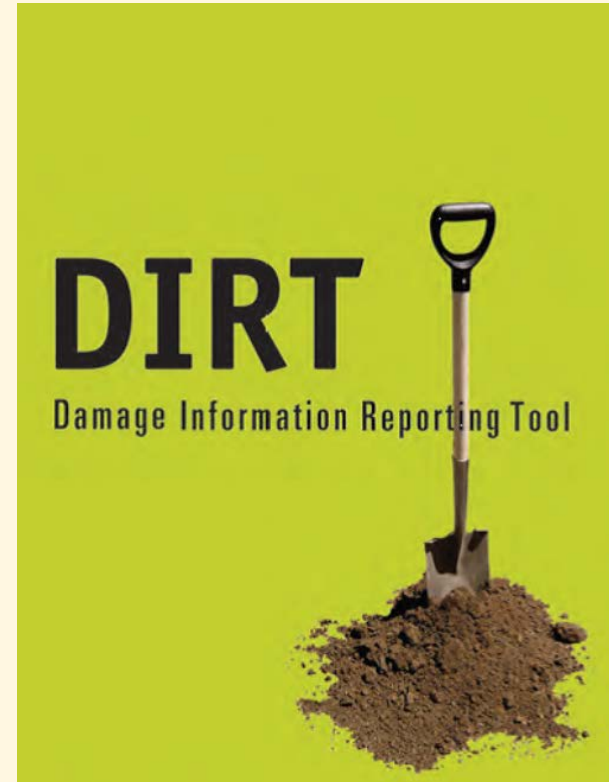
# Damage Reporting

**2015**

Damage Reports: 3,038

**Who is reporting:**

- Electric: 461
- Excavator: 189
- Liquid Pipeline: 2
- Natural Gas: 1,650
- Public Works: 180
- Telecommunications: 512
- Other: 44



There continues to be a lack of duplicate reports, meaning both the facility operator and excavator submitted a report. Of the 3,038 reports submitted, only 189 of those were from excavators. Excavators and facility operator should be both submit a DIRT report for each damage event.



## Damage Picture

### Damaged Facilities:

- Cable TV: 59
- Electric: 413
- Natural Gas: 1,560
- Sewer: 38
- Telecommunications: 828
- Water: 130
- Other: 10

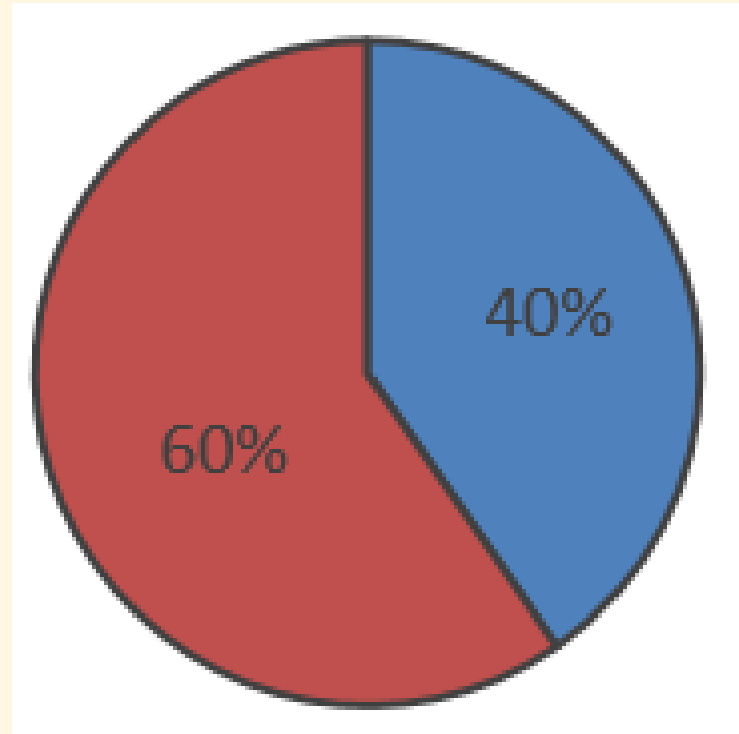




## Locate Requests

Of the 3,038 DIRT damage reports submitted in 2015, **60%** or 1,812, indicate that there was a **Locate Request** made prior to excavation. This is a **4%** increase over damages reported in 2014.

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 a different root cause for the damage incident in another category.







# Damage Picture

## Excavation Practices Not Sufficient

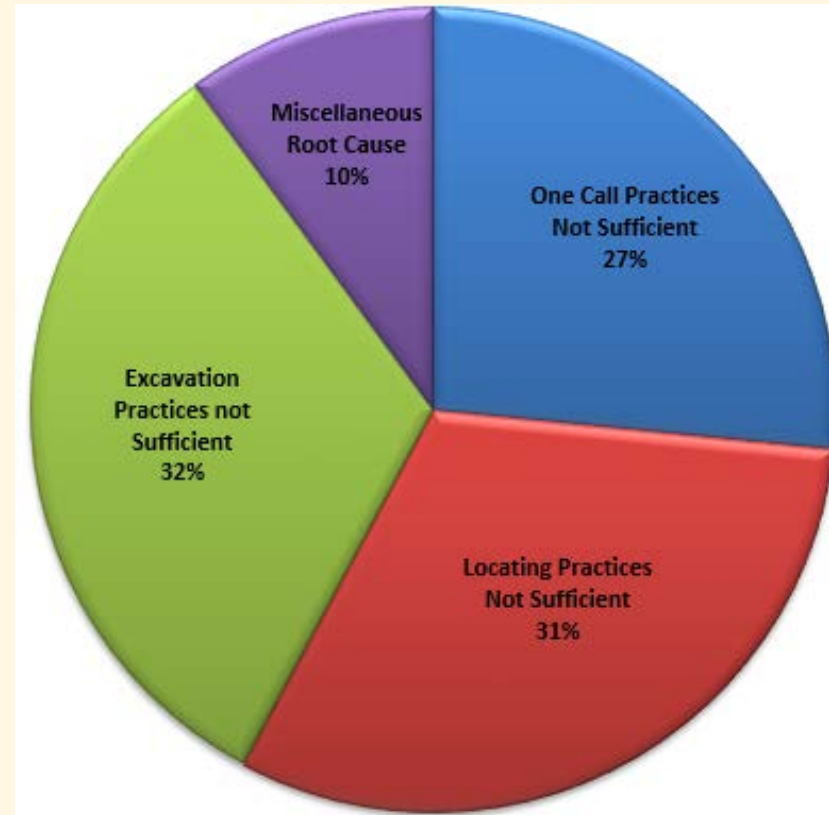
account for 32 percent of the 2015 damages, with 465 damages reports listing “Failure to Use Hand Tools” as the main reason for the damage.

**Locating Practices Not Sufficient** make up for 31 percent, with 420 reports stating the “Facility Was Not Located or Marked” and another 336 stating the “Facility Marking or Location Not Sufficient.”

**One Call Practices Not Sufficient** is at 27 percent with 522 incidents stating that there was “No Notification Made to the One-Call Center” to request a locate.

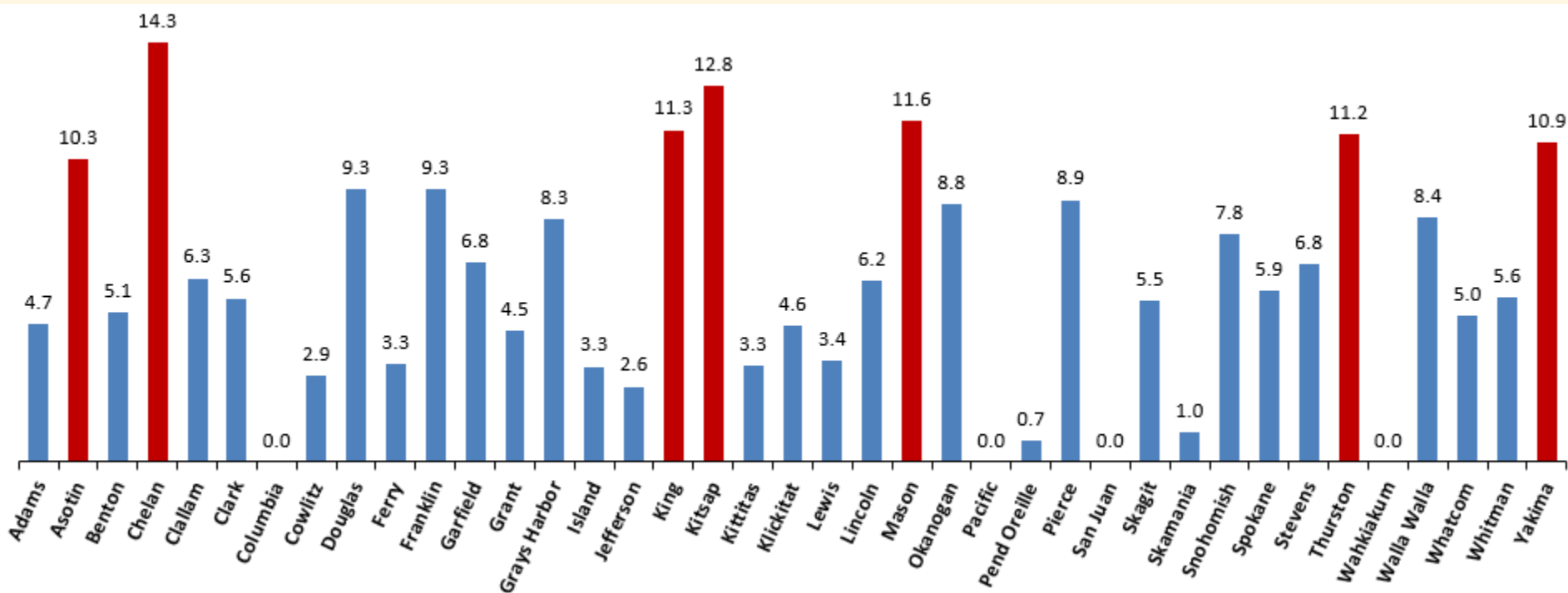
A change is made to the **Miscellaneous Root Cause** category by removing 485 reports that state the root cause as “Data Not Collected.” When using that selection, there is no root cause information that can be used for analysis, and therefore is not useful information in this category.

## Root Cause of Damage





# Damages by County per 1,000 Locate Requests



By evaluating damages per 1,000 locate requests in each county, data is normalized and we have a visual picture that helps determine where we can focus education, outreach and advertising. Counties over 10.0 are marked in red to identify where we can focus assistance and help reduce damage.



## 2015 Complaints, Enforcement Actions, and Training

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In 2015, the Washington Dig Law Safety Committee (Safety Committee) received 39 complaints of alleged violations of RCW 19.122. Ten of the complaints were reviewed by the Safety Committee, which resulted in recommendation referrals to the Utilities & Transportation Commission and four received warning determinations.

Of those referrals, \$7,700 was collected through penalty assessment fines. \$2,800 was deferred on the condition that the violator(s) attending a Dig Safe Certification training, and commit no further violations of RCW 19.122 for a period of one year. Another \$2,000 penalty assessment was withdrawn due to the company being out of business.

In addition, UTC staff performed 16 investigations of damage to natural gas without a locate in 2015. Violators were fined \$46,000. Of that total \$3,500 was mitigated, and \$42,500 was collected.

All of the fines collected through these penalty assessments 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.

In 2015, the Safety Committee using federal PHMSA grant funds hosted two Staking University Utility Locator training classes and three NUCA Dig Safe Certification classes in Washington. A total of 148 received training.

