



2016 End of Year Analysis

This report provides a summary and analysis of damage events occurring during 2016, 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.



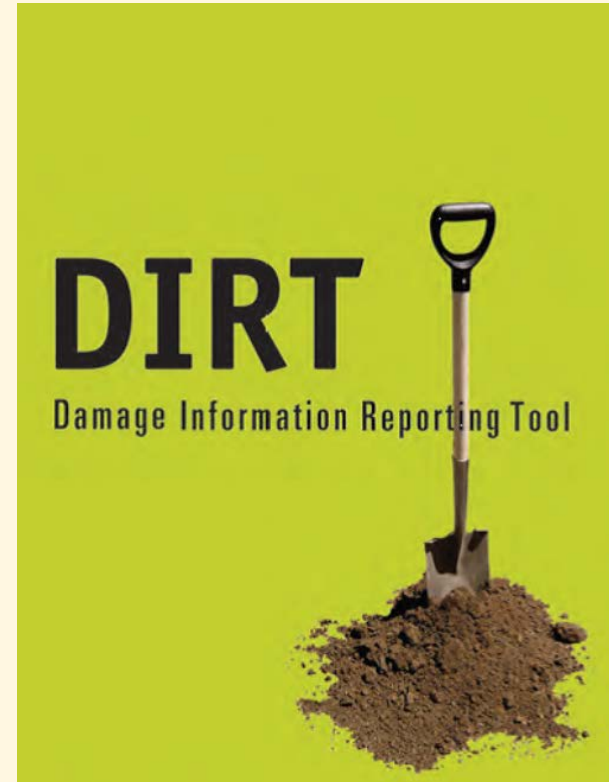
Damage Reporting

2016

Damage Reports: 2,509

Who is reporting:

- Electric: 362
- Excavator: 154
- Natural Gas: 1,478
- Public Works: 178
- Telecommunications: 290
- Other: 47



Again in 2016 there is a lack of duplicate reports, meaning both the facility operator and excavator submitted a report. Of the 2,509 reports submitted, only 154 of those were from excavators. Excavators and facility operators should both submit a DIRT report for each damage event.



Damage Picture

Damaged Facilities:

- Cable TV: 38
- Electric: 248
- Liquid: 2
- Natural Gas: 1,400
- Sewer: 26
- Telecommunications: 616
- Unknown: 14
- Water: 165

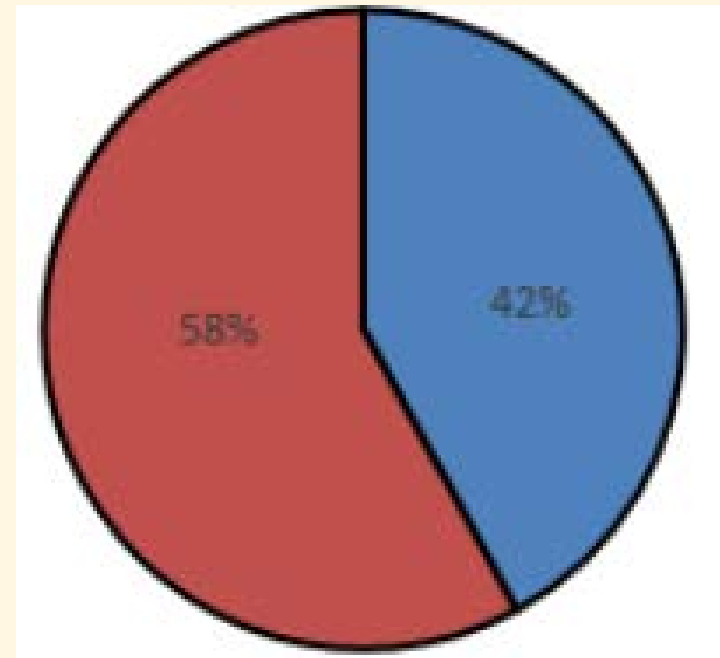




Locate Requests

Of the 2,509 DIRT damage reports submitted in 2016, **58%** or 1,454, indicate that there was a **Locate Request** made prior to excavation. This is two percentage is lower than the 2015 percentage.

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

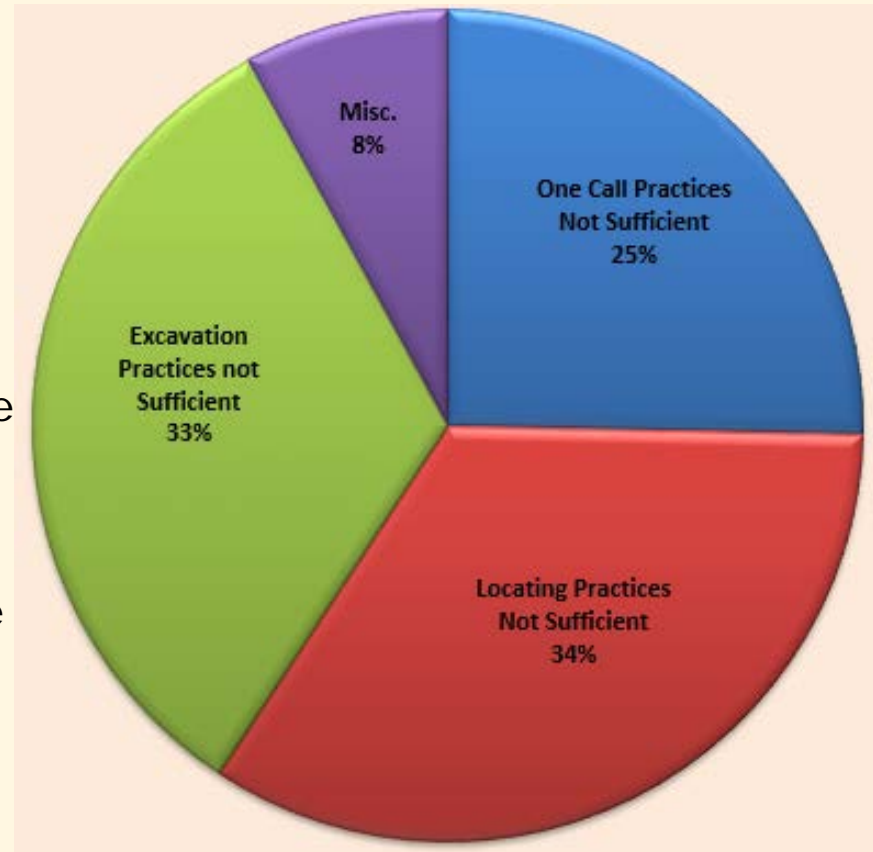
Locating Practices Not Sufficient make up 34 percent of the 2016 damages incidents, with 370 reports stating the “Facility Was Not Located or Marked” and another 336 stating “Facility Marking or Location Not Sufficient.”

Excavation Practices Not Sufficient account for 33 percent reported damages, with 209 damages reports listing “Failure to Use Hand Tools” as the main reason for the damage, and 197 stating there was a Failure to Test-hole (Pothole).”

One Call Practices Not Sufficient is 25 percent of the reports with 548 incidents stating that there was “No Notification Made to the One-Call Center” to request a locate.

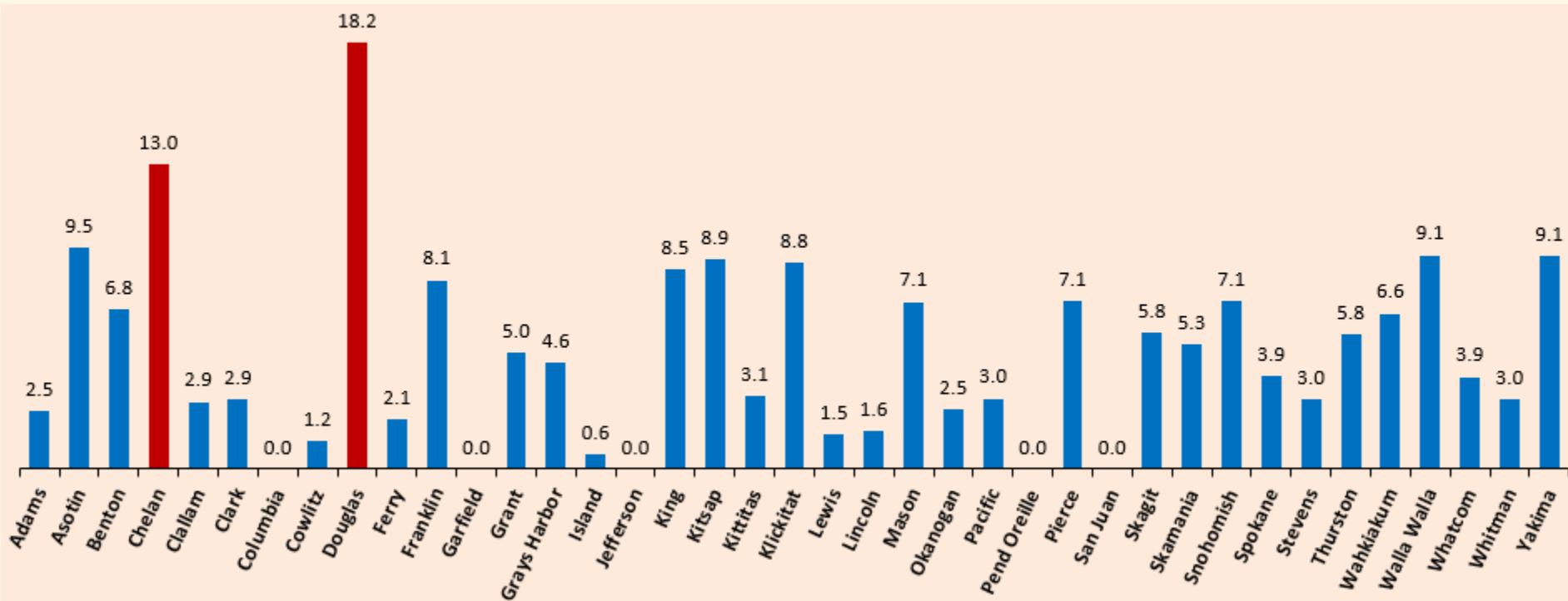
Miscellaneous Root Cause accounts for eight percent of all damages after removing 250 reports from this category with a root cause of “Data Not Collected,” as that selection is not useful for cause analysis.

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 assist in helping to reduce damage.

In 2015, there were seven counties over 10.0 damages per 1,000 locate requests. As shown on the graph above, there was an average of two in 2016. We believe this is attributed to advertising efforts by the UTC and other stakeholders in the state about the importance of calling for locates.



Locate Requests by Year

Requests for locates either by telephone or by on-line request have steadily grown each year by an average of over 34,000. We believe this is because of stakeholders who work hard for education, outreach, training and law changes designed to keep people safe and protect underground facilities.

Year	Incoming Locate Requests
2011	227,105
2012	282,521
2013	327,721
2014	353,296
2015	366,320
2016	398,003



2016 Complaints, Enforcement Actions

In 2016, the Washington Dig Law Safety Committee (Safety Committee) received 55 complaints of alleged violations of RCW 19.122. Of those complaints there were four companies that had multiple complaints filed against them. Twenty complaints went through a Safety Committee review, which resulted in four recommendation referrals to the UTC, three no violation findings, and one warning letter determination.

The Safety Committee referrals resulted in penalty assessments orders issued by the UTC totaling \$22,000.

In addition, in 2016 the UTC sent technical assistance warning letters to 265 professional excavators and 132 homeowners who had damaged a natural gas facility when excavating without a locate.

UTC staff also performed 18 separate investigations of damage to natural gas without a locate in 2016. \$57,000 in fines were assessed. Many of the offenders had multiple violations.

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.

