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## 2017 End of Year Analysis

This report provides a summary and analysis of damage events occurring in 2017, 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.

In past we have not included late reports. However, because there were 359 late reports (not included in the 2017 quarterly analysis), we have chosen to add them to this report to help give a truer picture of damages in Washington. We also believe the information contained in them have value, even though they were submitted late.



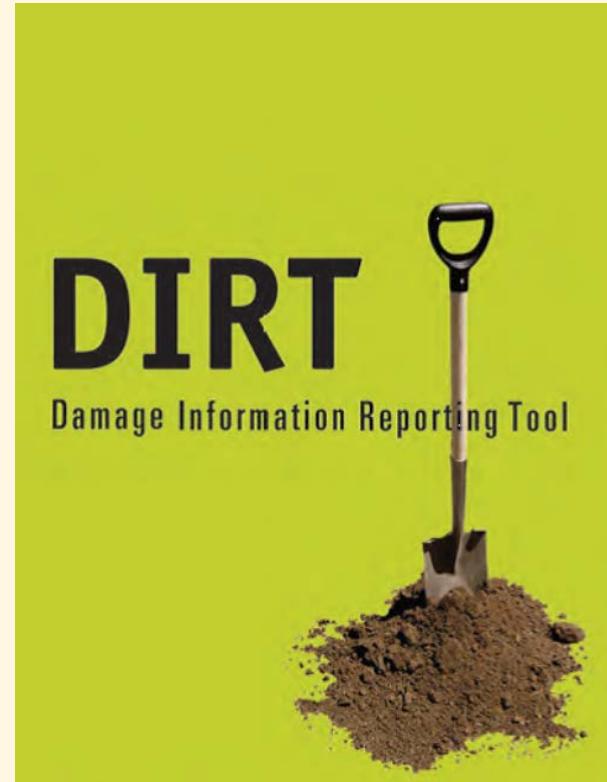
## Damage Reporting

2017

Damage Reports: 3,115

### Who is reporting:

- Electric: 576
- Excavator: 155
- Natural Gas: 1,689
- Public Works: 171
- Telecommunications: 458
- Other: 66



There is still a lack of duplicate reports in 2017, meaning both the facility operator and excavator submitted a report. Only 155 reports were submitted by excavators, which is only one more than last year. Excavators and facility operators should both submit a DIRT report for each damage event.



## Damage Picture

### Damaged Facilities:

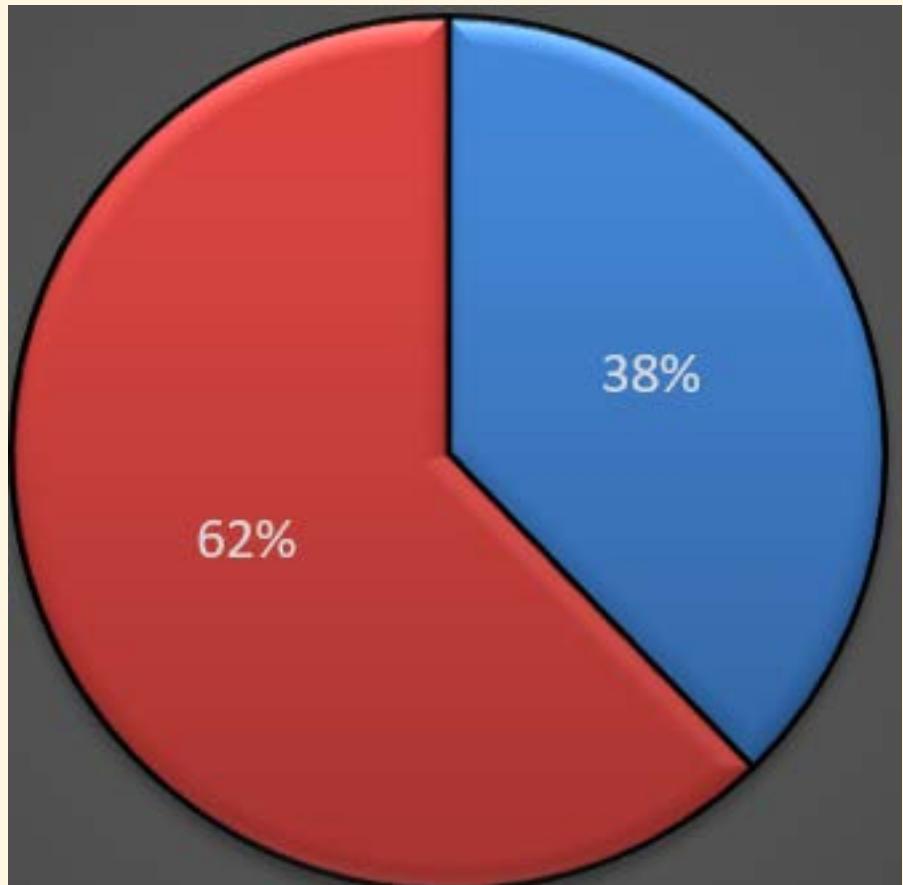
- Cable TV: 196
- Electric: 496
- Liquid: 13
- Natural Gas: 1601
- Sewer: 25
- Telecommunications: 601
- Unknown: 13
- Water: 170





## Locate Requests

Of the 3,115 DIRT damage reports submitted in 2017, 1,939, or **62%** indicated there was a **Locate Request** made prior to excavation. This is four percent higher than 2016.



Note: This is separate data point from Root Cause. 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.



# Washington's Damage Picture

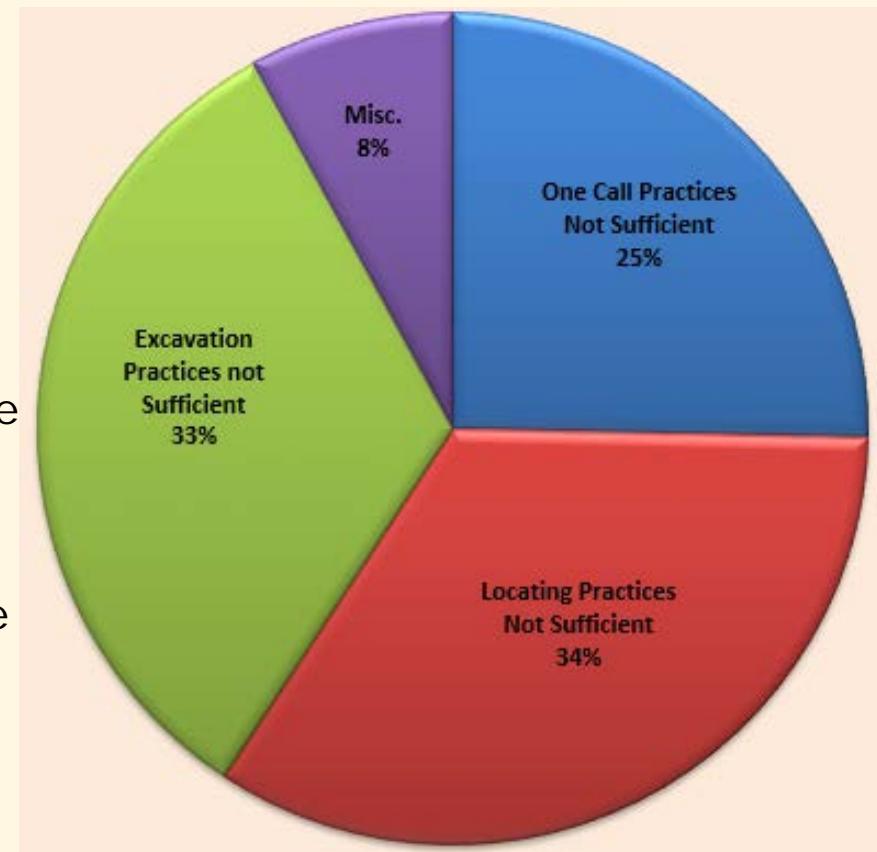
**Locating Practices Not Sufficient** make up 34 percent of the 2016 damages incidents, with 370 reports stating the "Facility Was Not Located or Marked" and another 336 stating "Facility Marking or Location Not Sufficient."

**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.

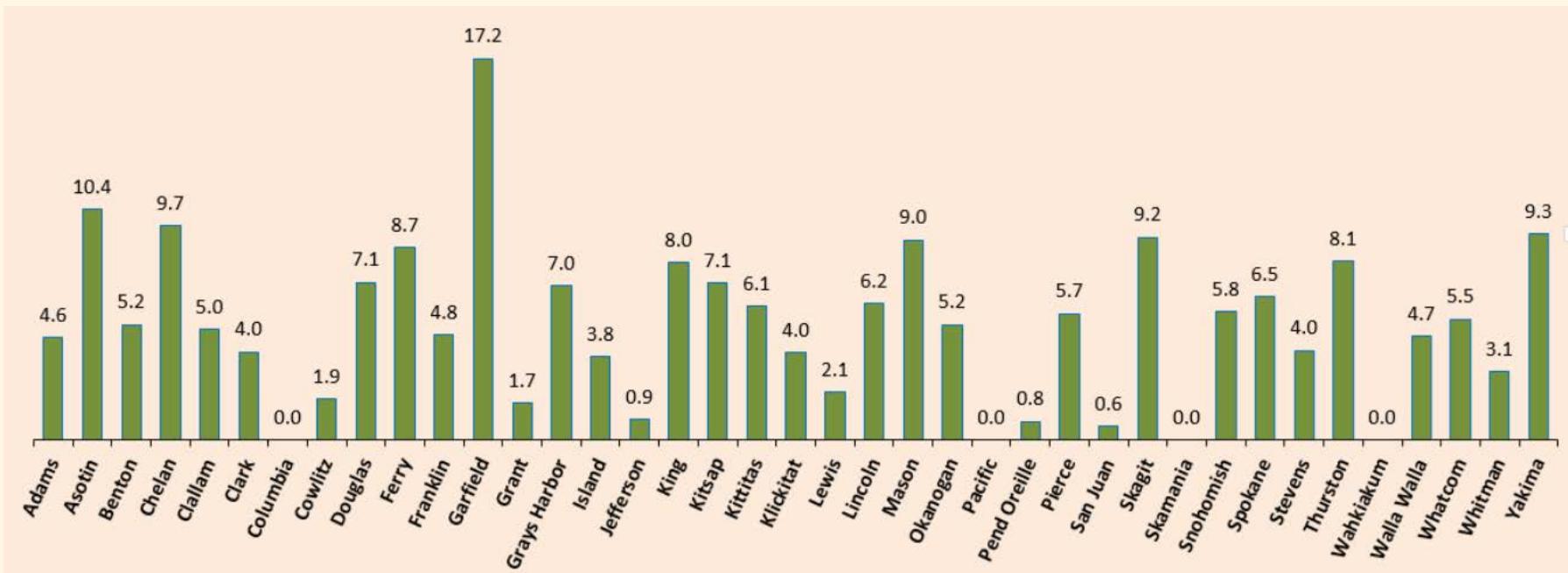
**Miscellaneous Root Cause** accounts for eight percent of all damages after removing 250 reports from this category with a root cause of "Data Not Collected," as that selection is not useful for cause analysis.

**Root Cause of Damage**





# Damages by County per 1,000 Locate Requests



2017 saw an average of 6.5 reported damages incidents per 1,000 locate requests. This data and gives a visual picture that is helpful in determining where to focus education, outreach and advertising. Counties over 6.0 were used as a benchmark to determine the best locations to advertise 811, and where to host Dig Safe and Locator trainings.

In 2015, there were seven counties over 10.0 damages per 1,000 locate requests. For the past two years, there were only two over that benchmark. We believe this is attributed to advertising efforts by stakeholders in the state about the importance of calling for locates.



## Locate Requests by Year

Requests for locates request have steadily grown each year, with 2017 having an exceptionally large jump of 90,239 more requests over 2016. We believe this is can be attributed to increased building activity throughout the state, and acceptance by real estate and sign companies that they are also required to secure a locate before installing a sign. In Addition, this number is higher because many stakeholders continue to work diligently on the importance of calling 811 through education and advertisements.

Year	Incoming Locate Requests
2011	227,105
2012	282,521
2013	327,721
2014	353,296
2015	366,320
2016	398,003
2017	488,242



## 2017 Complaints, Enforcement Actions

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In 2017, the Washington Dig Law Safety Committee (Safety Committee) received 54 complaints of alleged violations of RCW 19.122. Fifteen of those complaints went through a Safety Committee review, which resulted in seven recommendation referrals to the UTC. Eighteen cases were withdrawn, and six warning letters were issued.

Four Safety Committee referrals resulted in penalty assessments orders issued by the UTC totaling \$74,000, with options to defer \$26,000 if the offender completed Dig Safe training and had no additional violations for one year.

In addition, in 2017 the UTC sent technical assistance warning letters to 344 professional excavators and 137 homeowners who had damaged a natural gas facility when excavating without a locate.

UTC staff also performed 33 separate investigations of damage to natural gas or liquid pipeline without a locate in 2017. \$32,500 in fines were assessed. Many of the offenders had multiple violations.



# Training

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All of the fines collected through penalty assessments are deposited into a Damage Prevention Penalty Account which can only be used for educational purposes to improve worker and public safety, relating to excavation and underground utilities.

Using money from the Damage Prevention Penalty Account and a Federal Grant from PHMSA (Federal DOT) there were eight training classes offered completely free of charge to the participant. The classes were held at:

## **Four NUCA Dig Safe Training Classes (1-day):**

Olympia	Wenatchee
Sunnyside	Poulsbo

## **Four Staking University Locator Training Classes (2-day):**

Bellingham	Burlington
Olympia	Wenatchee

**250 PEOPLE ATTENDED FREE TRAINING IN 2017**