

Washington State Damage Reporting

Q2 2017 DIRT Analysis April—June 2017

Introduction

This Washington DIRT report provides a summary and analysis of submitted damage events occurring during the second quarter of 2017. To generate the most accurate analysis of damage events, it is important that damages are reported to DIRT within the 45 day timeframe set forth in the statute. Any damages occurring during that time which were submitted after the 45 day period will not be included in the report analysis.

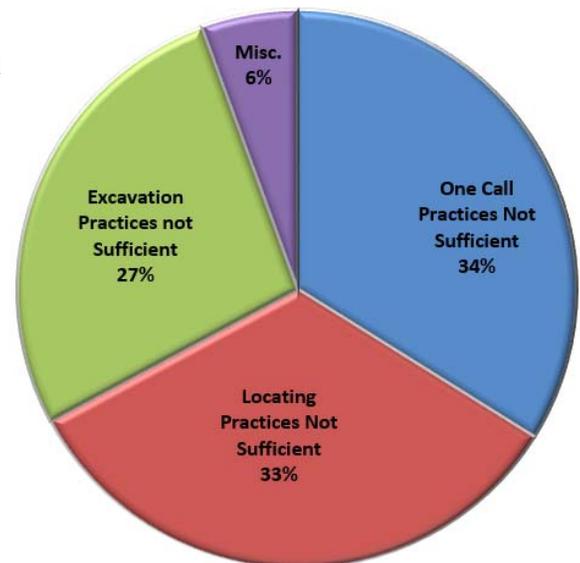
Trends

A total of **696** damage reports were submitted to the DIRT database in the second quarter of 2017. This number represents only 11 more reports than were received during the second quarter of 2016. There were only a couple duplicate damage events, meaning the facility operator and the excavator both submitted reports. Because of the very small number, both reports for each incident have been left in the analysis, due to each listing a different root cause.

Root Cause

One Call Practices Not Sufficient jumped from 27 percent last quarter to 34 percent this quarter, with 217 reports stating the root cause for the damage was due to “no notification made to one-call center.” As shown below under Locate Requests, there were 281 damage reports stating “**no locate request**” was made, however, on 64 of those DIRT reports, the person selected a different root cause for damage. **Locating Practices Not Sufficient** made up 33 percent of the reports received this quarter, with 127 reports stating that the “facility marking or location was not sufficient” and 78 reports cited that the “facility was not located or marked.” **Excavation Practices Not Sufficient** came in lower at 27 percent of the total damages this quarter, with 82 reports stating the damage incidents were caused by “failure to use hand tools where required” and 44 stating the “excavation practices were not sufficient.” Lastly, the **Miscellaneous** category makes up six percent. Because 29 of the reports under this category used a root cause of “data not collected,” they were removed from this portion of the analysis to provide a more accurate visual representation of damage by root cause. All report submitters are encouraged to determine a root cause when filling out DIRT reports. By doing so, we can identify where education and outreach efforts should be focused.

Damage by Root Cause



LOCATE REQUESTS ON THE 696 REPORTS:

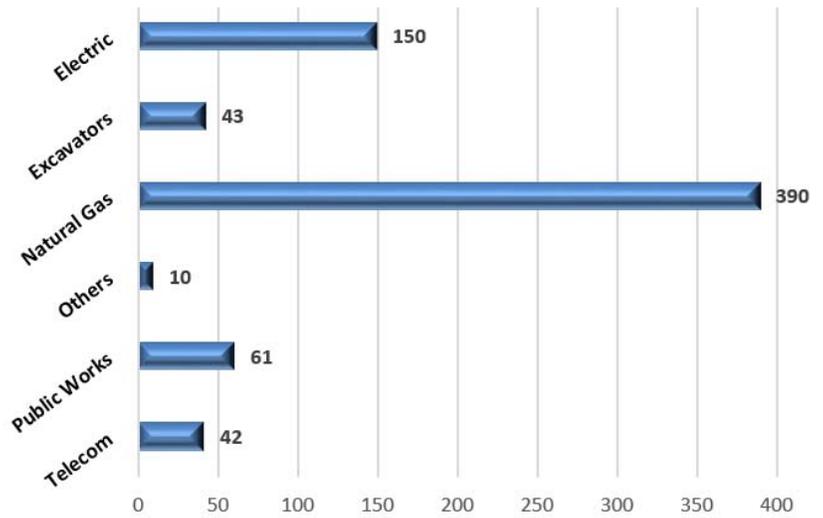
415—YES	60%
281—NO	40%

The information received through root causes in DIRT reporting is not intended to be used for punitive purposes. The statistics are used to provide information about damages that everyone can use to help make the system better and identify needs or opportunities to develop better education and outreach.

Know what's below.
Call  before you dig.

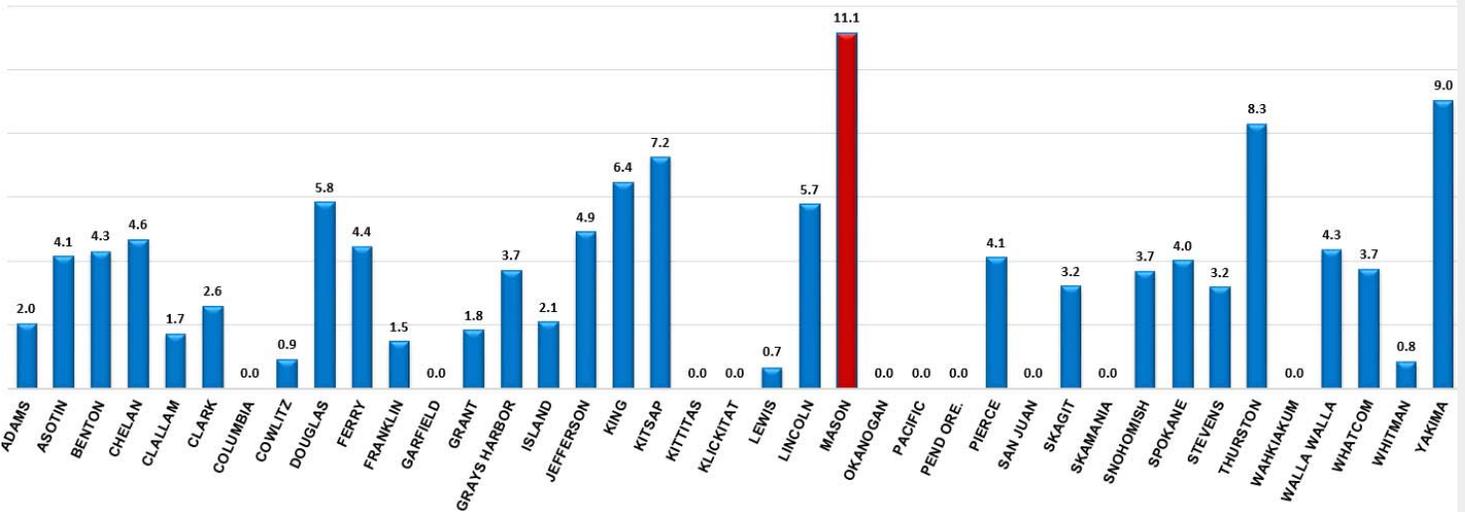
Reporting Stakeholders

Natural gas stakeholders normally submit the bulk of the data, as has been done in this quarter with 390 reports accounting for 56 percent of all damage events. **Electric** companies submitted 150 reports for 22 percent, **Public Works** submitted 42 reports for nine percent, and **Telecommunications** companies submitted 42 reports, for six percent. **Excavators** submitted 43 damage reports for another six percent, and **Others** accounted for the last one percent. Since each damage event should reflect two damage reports, we continue to emphasize the importance of DIRT reporting to all excavators who damage facilities. (RCW 19.122.053) Submitting a damage report is also each party's opportunity to tell their side of the story.



Damage Events by County

The chart below provides a visual comparison of damage events by county per 1,000 locate requests. Counties with more than 10.0 damages per 1,000 locate requests are highlighted in red, to help identify areas needing more outreach or education. The first quarter of 2017 was the first time all counties were below the mark. This quarter again shows great results with only one county over the 10.0 threshold.



Education

The above graph gives a visual picture to stakeholders with a vested interest in damage prevention, public safety and protecting infrastructure. The numbers above become lower with more 811 calls or online requests, so take opportunities to educate others whenever possible. There were **34,741 more inbound locate requests in this quarter** over the same time period last year. You can also provide the commission's contact information to anyone who is unaware of the requirements outlined in RCW 19.122, or in need of information about damage reporting. If you have questions about this report, damage reporting, or would like to request a presentation by the commission, please contact [Lynda Holloway](#).

