



2007 DIRT Report Indicates Incidents Trending Downward

Washington, D.C. (December 8, 2008) – The Common Ground Alliance (CGA), today announced findings from its fourth annual Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) Report. This latest report yields significant findings and furthers the effort to identify the contributing factors and root causes of facility events (or underground damages and near misses) and to reinforce the direction to effectively reduce the number of events occurring each year.

According to the Report, approximately 256,000 damages occurred in the United States in 2007; a paramount reduction over previous years. Several factors likely led to a lower estimate including stakeholder support and promotion of 811, Regional CGA efforts and implementation of CGA Best Practices by stakeholders as well as the use of new and proven technologies. “This year’s report shows a tremendous impact of the efforts put forth by CGA members in the effort to reduce damages to the nation’s infrastructure,” stated Bob Kipp, CGA President, “understanding the root cause of these events will hopefully prevent future events from occurring which can save lives and money.”

The data used for this report was submitted by participating stakeholders and represents events occurring in 2007. As in each previous year since DIRT’s inception in 2004, the use of DIRT and the number of events submitted continues to increase. For 2007 more than 150 organizations submitted 121,384 records, representing a 16% increase over the prior year. While this is still a significant increase in records submitted, the CGA encourages ALL stakeholders to collect and submit their qualified underground damage and near miss information into DIRT so that it can be included in the analysis of data submitted throughout the US and Canada.

Growth is also evident by the number of Virtual Private DIRT (VPD) accounts being requested and developed. Currently, there are 21 active VPD accounts in use with several pending requests under development. VPD is an efficient, secure and useful solution for managing one’s damage and near miss data which can be customized to fit the needs of the individual organization or company. VPD’s are currently being used by trade associations, one-call centers and individual companies who understand the importance of collecting and sharing damage and near miss information for analysis.

The fourth Annual Report analyzing data submitted to DIRT provides a comprehensive look at the progress being made in underground damage prevention efforts. These reports are a result of CGA’s mission to collect data as indicated in the Original Common Ground Study published a decade ago. To view the report in its entirety, please visit www.cga-dirt.com or click “[DIRT Report](#)” to download directly.

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