



DIRT Frequently Asked Questions

What is DIRT?

DIRT is Common Ground Alliance's acronym for "Damage Information Reporting Tool." It is a secure web application that anonymously collects any stakeholder's data about excavation incidents that could have, or did, lead to a damaged underground facility. (Best Practice 9-1)

Who can submit to DIRT?

Any CGA stakeholder that has data pertaining to a excavation incidents (including damage and near miss incidents) can register to submit to DIRT. This includes facility operators, excavators, locators, as well as one call centers that collect data from stakeholders in their region. You do not have to be a CGA member to submit data.

How is the data used?

All data collected by CGA is anonymous and confidential and is used to produce the annual DIRT Analysis and Recommendations Report. This report is used primarily to help stakeholders identify the common root causes of excavation incidents, the type of equipment used when they occurred and the type of work performed. Stakeholders then use that information to build damage prevention strategies and campaigns to help reduce future incidents.

Why should I submit data to DIRT?

There are many good reasons to submit data, but according to a recent study of current DIRT submitters, the primary motivation is helping to identify national trends that can improve damage prevention, through potential new Best Practices and educational programs. Other reasons to submit to DIRT include being able to compare your organization to national data and improving your organization's own internal reporting system.

How much time does it take to submit data to DIRT?

According to that same DIRT user study, more than 75 percent of current DIRT participants are either somewhat or very satisfied with the amount of time it takes submit data. Thanks to several automated data transfer tools offered by CGA, data submission can take as little as an hour once a year.

When is the deadline for submitting reports?

You can submit reports at any time, but data from the preceding year must be submitted by March 31 to be included in the annual report.

Where can I learn more and register for DIRT?

More information, online tutorials and registration are available at www.cga-dirt.com.

Have other questions about DIRT? Email dirt@commongroundalliance.com.