

CCGA DIRT Report Estimates Damage to Buried Utilities Continues to Cost Canada at Least \$1 Billion Every Year

(November 19, 2021) – The Canadian Common Ground Alliance (CCGA) released the 2020 Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) Report today. This report presents characteristics, themes and contributing factors leading to buried energy and utility damages in Canada as reported via the DIRT system.

In 2020, there were 11,573 damages reported via DIRT for Canada; on average, this is more than 45 reported damages per workday. The societal cost of these damages to underground infrastructure in Canada continues to be estimated at least \$1 billion per year.

Among all damage reports with an identified and known root cause, 26% occurred because no locate request was made to a One Call Centre and 37% were the result of insufficient excavation practices.

While reporting damages in DIRT continues to be voluntary, the data is critical for the CCGA to determine root causes and develop mitigating measures to reduce and eliminate them.

Highlights:

- 11,573 damages voluntarily reported in 2020 – a drop of 3% from 2019
- More than 45 damages occurred per work day
- 22% of damages are the direct result of not making a locate request to a One Call Centre.
- Damages cost Canadians over \$1 Billion annually

The complete 2020 DIRT Report is available to download at www.canadiancga.com. Stakeholders interested in submitting data to the 2021 report, or establishing a Virtual Private Dirt account, should visit the DIRT website at www.cga-dirt.com.

The Canadian Common Ground Alliance (CCGA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing public safety, and increasing the integrity and reliability of Canada's underground utility infrastructure through the development and implementation of effective and efficient damage prevention practices across Canada. As Canada's unified voice on damage prevention, the CCGA attracts members from all Canadian national organizations and associations who share common damage prevention and public safety solutions. The CCGA and its Regional Partners welcome all stakeholders who wish to be part of the identification and promotion of best practices that reduce damage to buried utilities.

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