

An alarming 74% of Ohio contractors are unaware that there is a formalized damage reporting system.

In 2003, the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) launched DIRT (Damage Information Reporting Tool). In 2008, Ohio Utilities Protection Service (O.U.P.S.) launched Virtual Private DIRT (VPD), an Ohio-based secure web application for reporting, collecting, and analyzing underground utility safety and damage data.

DIRT helps increase safety and prevent infrastructure damage by serving as a national clearinghouse for damage data collection, analysis, and dissemination. The data collected through DIRT helps identify root causes, perform trend analysis, and educate stakeholders about safety precautions and procedures.

## CALL. DIG. REPORT.

Join us in making Ohio a safer place to live and work.

The Ohio Utilities Protection Service (O.U.P.S.) is a not-for-profit organization that serves as the communication link between facility owners and anyone planning excavation activity in Ohio.

[www.oups.org](http://www.oups.org)

The Common Ground Alliance (CGA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting shared responsibility in damage prevention.

[www.commongroundalliance.com](http://www.commongroundalliance.com)



CLICK [www.oups.org](http://www.oups.org) – CALL 811 – TAP the O.U.P.S. App  
BEFORE YOU DIG



# CALL. DIG. REPORT.

## IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

The Ohio Utilities Protection Service (O.U.P.S.) currently processes more than one million excavation notices annually—a sign that contractors and facility owners understand the importance of calling before they dig to promote safety and protect our infrastructure.

## BUT ACTING RESPONSIBLY TAKES MORE THAN A CALL: IT REQUIRES REPORTING

When a damage or near-miss occurs during excavation, you should report it.

- What type of damage occurred?
- What safety measures were taken prior to the damage?
- Was specific safety protocol followed?



Data reporting could help to prevent future incidents like this.

## WHAT IS FACILITY DAMAGE?

Any impact or exposure that results in the need to repair an underground facility due to a weakening, or the partial or complete destruction, of the facility.

## HOW DOES DIRT WORK?

DIRT allows users to confidentially submit excavation damage and near miss reports, and then stores that data and provides the user access to the information to determine the root cause(s) or related issues.

## WHY SHOULD YOU REPORT/ENTER DATA INTO DIRT?

Damage to Ohio's underground infrastructure threatens public safety, the safety of Ohio workers, and can cost billions of dollars each year.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF REPORTING?

Contractors who use DIRT are able to implement improvements based on their own internal damage reports; help their organizations set benchmarks; develop appropriate damage prevention messages; and help produce new best practices for safe digging.

## WHO CAN VIEW SUBMITTED INCIDENT REPORTS?

You may view the reports you have submitted. An independent firm provides an annual analysis of confidential records and publishes the DIRT Report. This report can then be used by the excavation community to set benchmarks, develop appropriate damage prevention messages, and help recommend new practices for safe digging.

Only 39% of Ohio engineers have a system in place to investigate and report damages and/or near misses to a state or national reporting system.

## BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION.

Learn more about how DIRT can help you improve safety and productivity on the job. Go to [www.oups.org/vpd](http://www.oups.org/vpd) and sign up today.