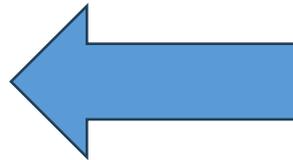




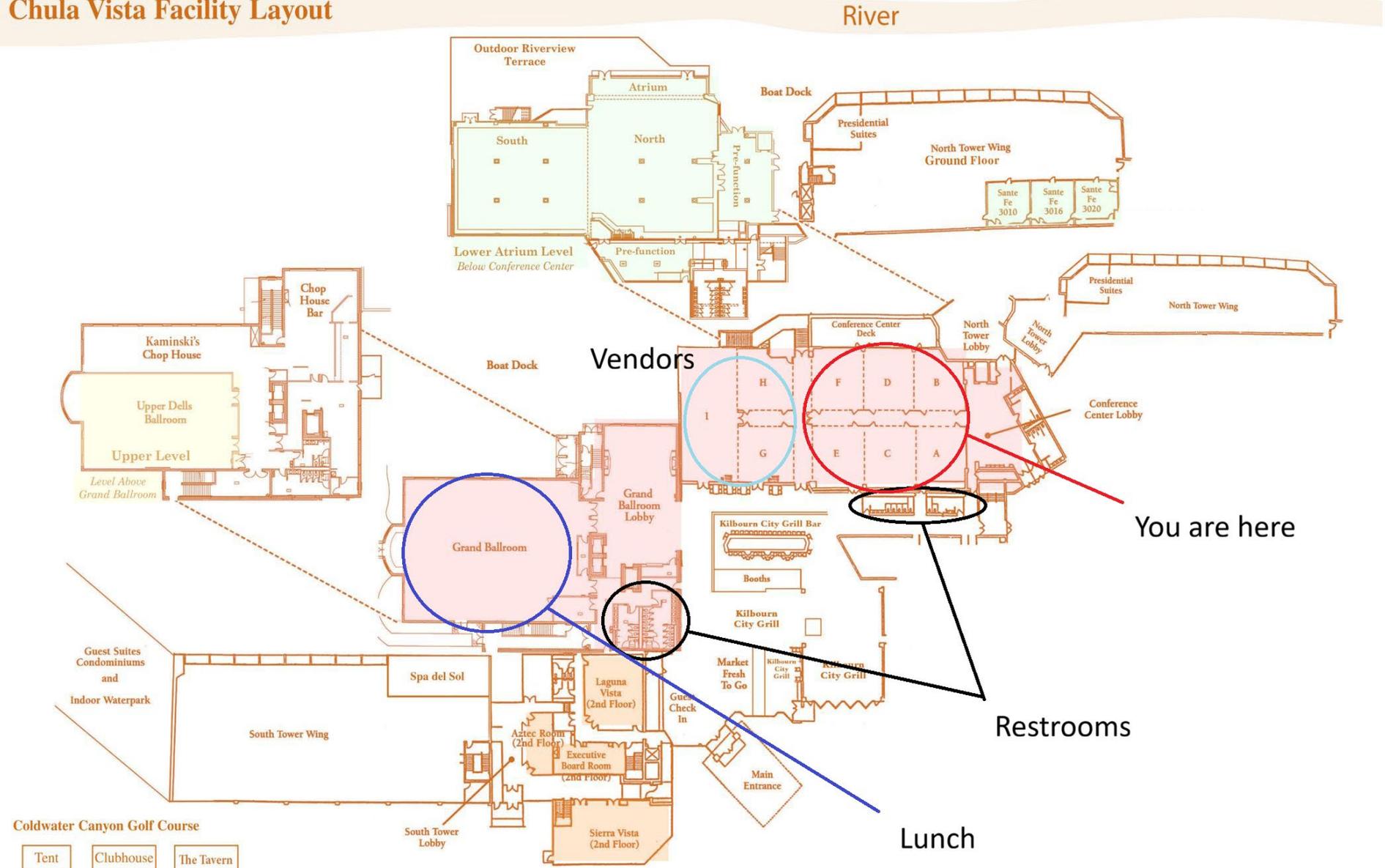
Welcome to the 2026 Wisconsin Excavation Damage Prevention Conference

February 3, 2026

*REGISTRATION is down the hall past the
vendor room*



Chula Vista Facility Layout





Welcome Remarks

Wisconsin Excavation Damage Prevention Conference

February 3, 2026

Alex Kirschling

Pipeline Safety Program Manager

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

- Welcome Remarks
- Planning & Notification Challenges/Successes
- Locating Challenges/Successes
- Excavation Challenges/Successes
- Wisconsin Damage Prevention Council Meeting
- Plastic Pipe/Conduit Manufacturing Process

Who is the Public Service Commission?



- Since 1907, the Public Service Commission (PSC) has been responsible for the regulation of Wisconsin public utilities, including those that are municipally owned.
- Types of utilities regulated include electric, natural gas, water, and certain aspects of local telephone service. More than 1,100 utilities are under the agency's jurisdiction. Most of these must obtain PSC approval before:
 - Setting new rates
 - Issuing stocks or bonds
 - Undertaking major construction projects such as power plants, water wells, and transmission lines.
 - The PSC does not regulate cable TV, cellular phones, cellular towers, internet service providers, LP gas, or fuel oil.

- Pipeline Safety Program

- Inspect and enforce federal/state pipeline safety regulations
- Intrastate natural gas pipeline operators
- Operators required to have damage prevention program

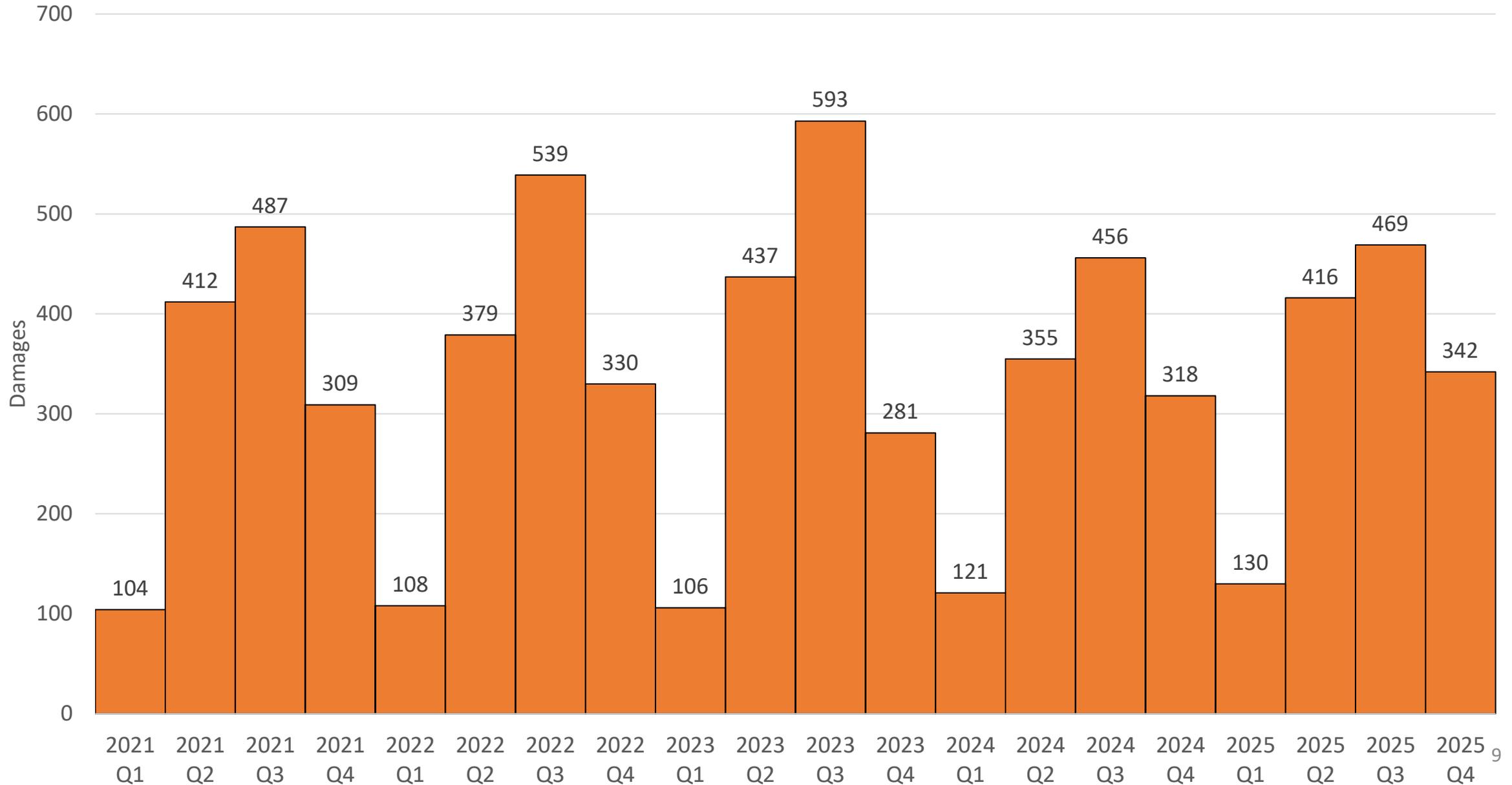
- One-call complaint enforcement

- Investigate complaints referred to the PSC for violations of the one-call law
- PSC may assign education, assess forfeiture, or both

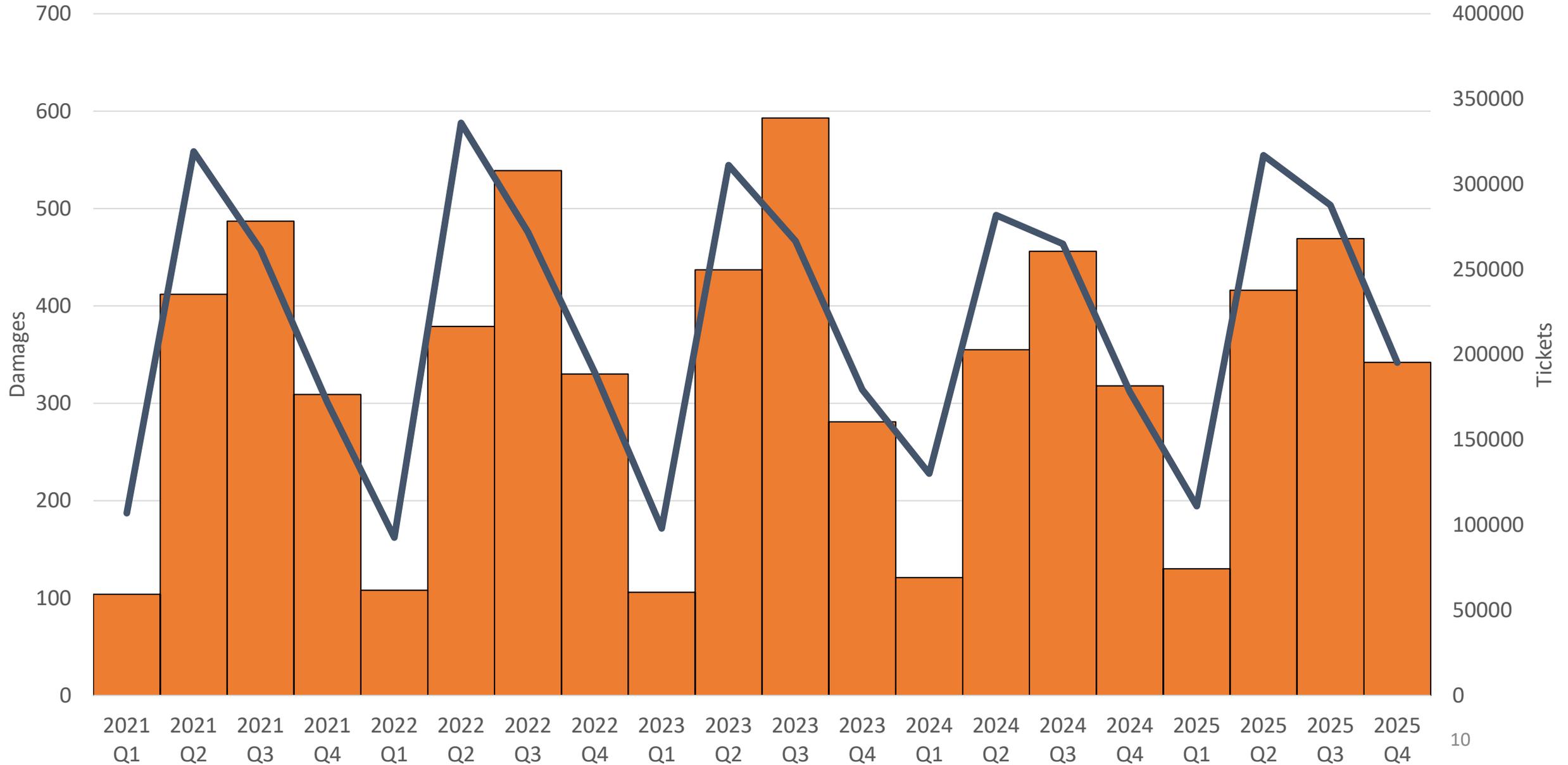
- WI gas utilities submit quarterly damage report
- Detail each excavation damage to their gas facilities
- Same categories as CGA DIRT Report
- Data reporting started in 2021 (5 years of data)

- **Date**
- **Location**
- **ROW type** (City Street, Country Road, Interstate Highway, Railroad, etc.)
- **Excavator** (Contractor, County, Developer, Farmer, etc.)
- **Equipment** (Backhoe, Hand tools, Directional Drilling, Auger, etc.)
- **Work performed** (Gas, electric, communications, water, road, etc.)
- **Locator type** (Company or Contractor)
- **Root cause** (Didn't verify marks, Clearance, Didn't call 811, etc.)
- **If service was interrupted**

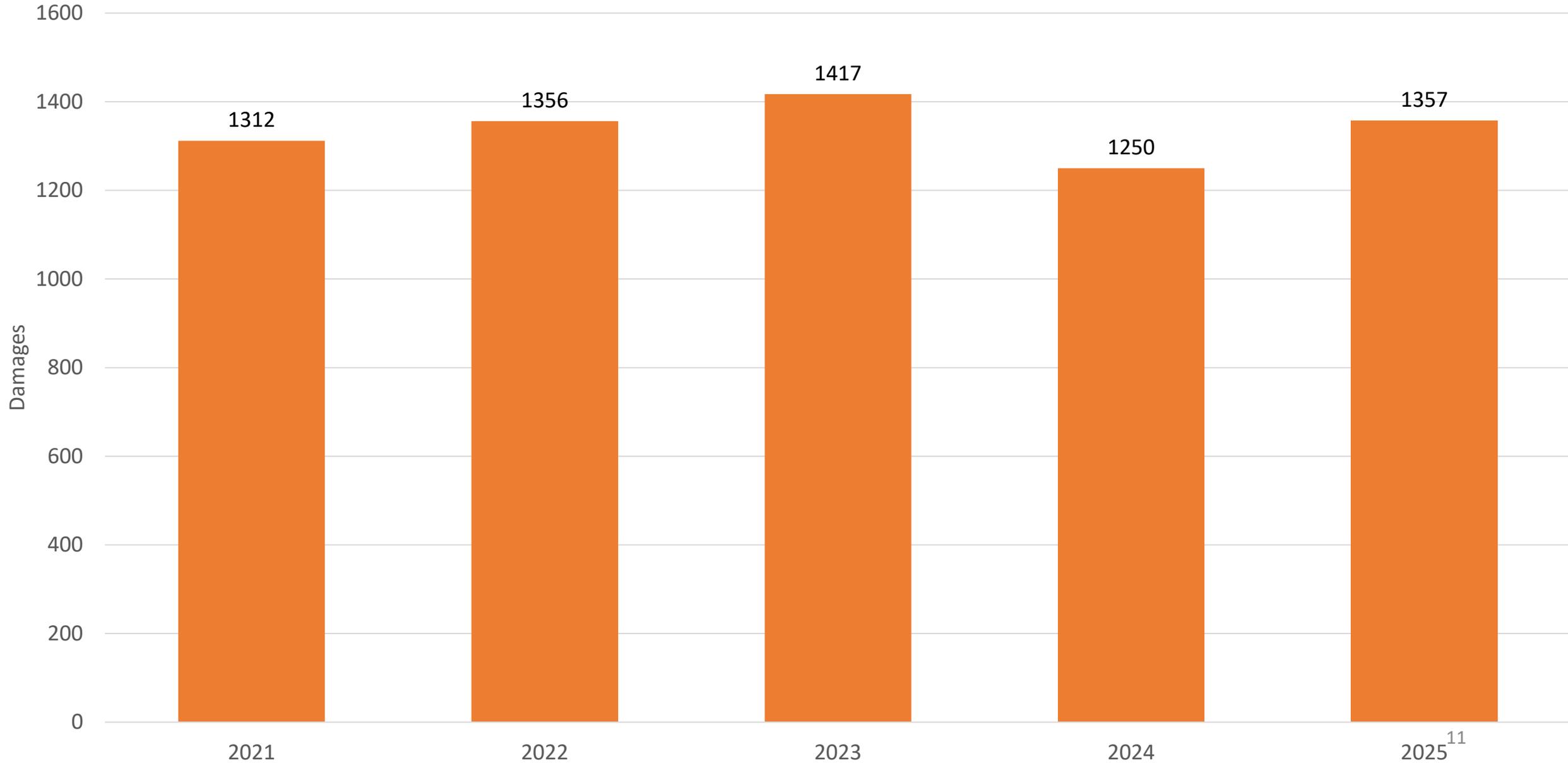
Damages by Quarter



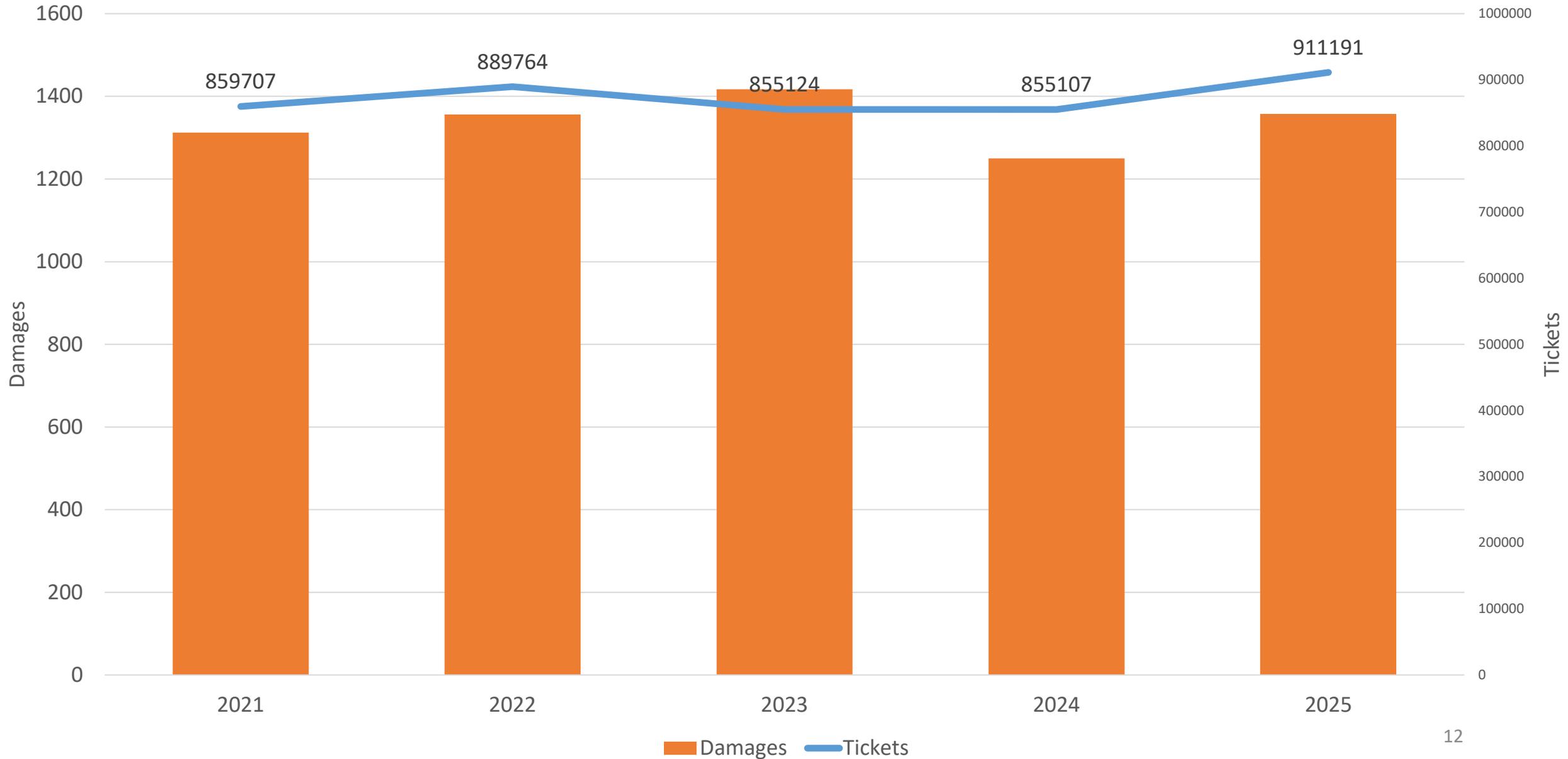
Damages and Tickets by Quarter



Damages by Year



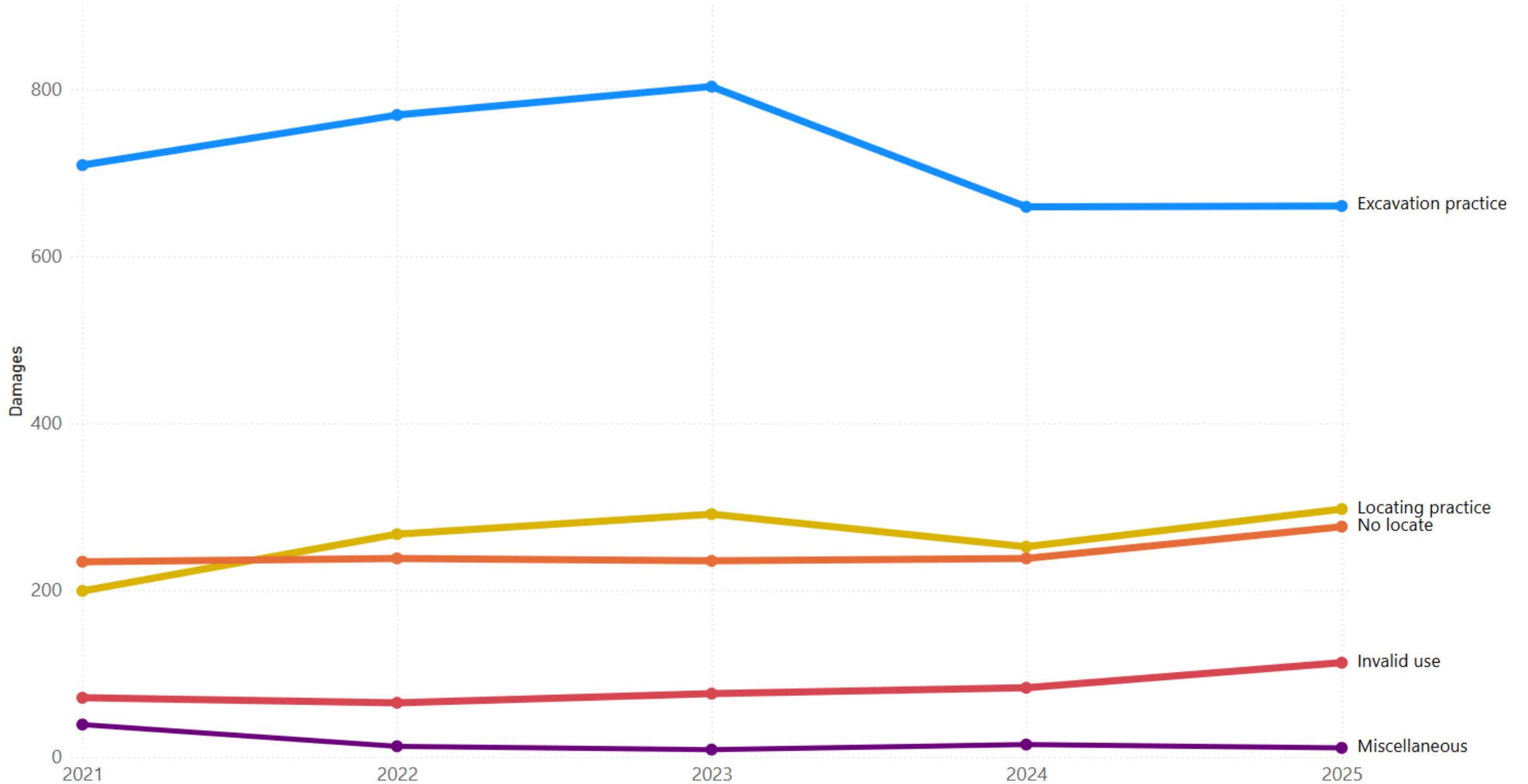
Damages and Tickets by Year



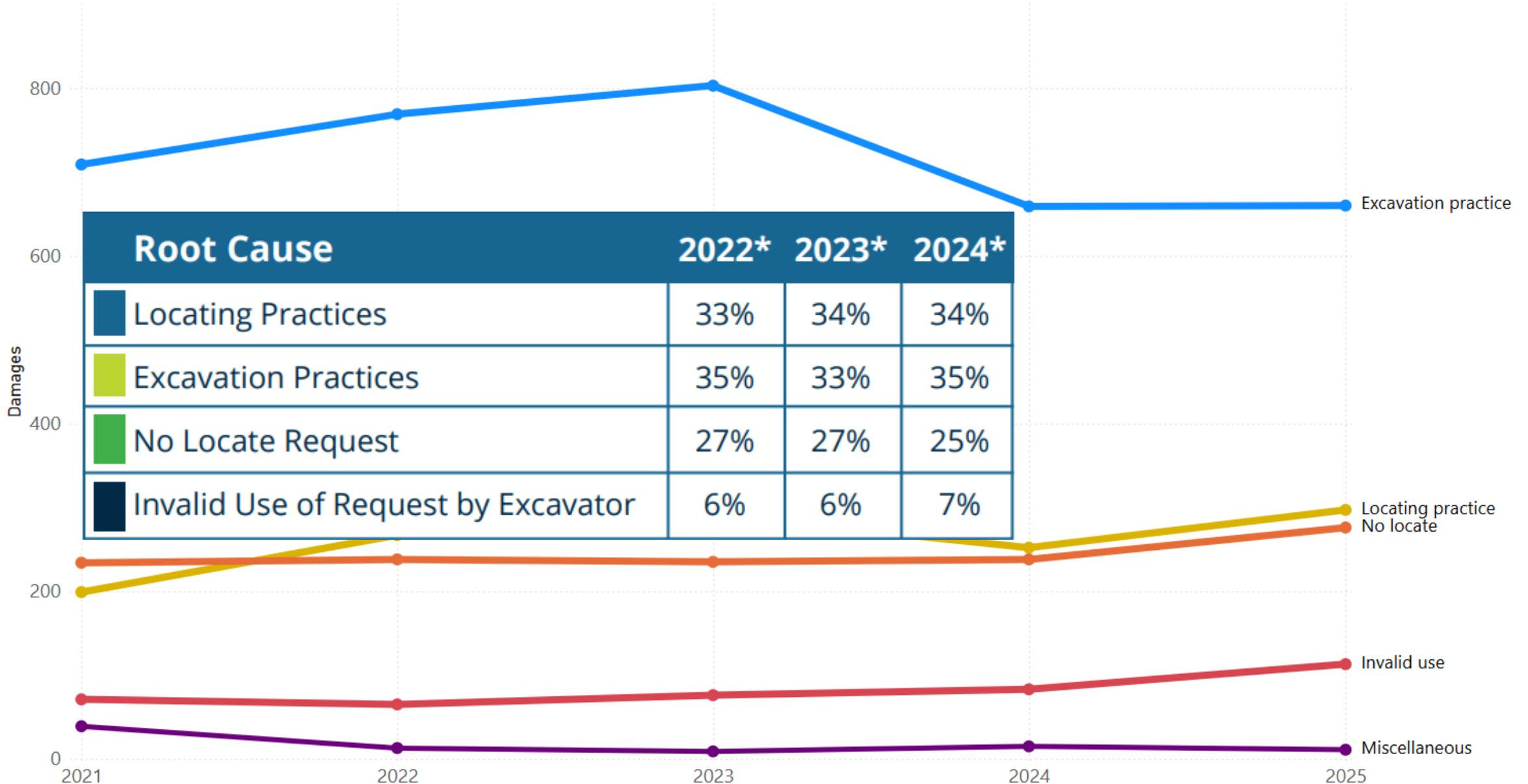
Damages per 1000 Tickets by Year



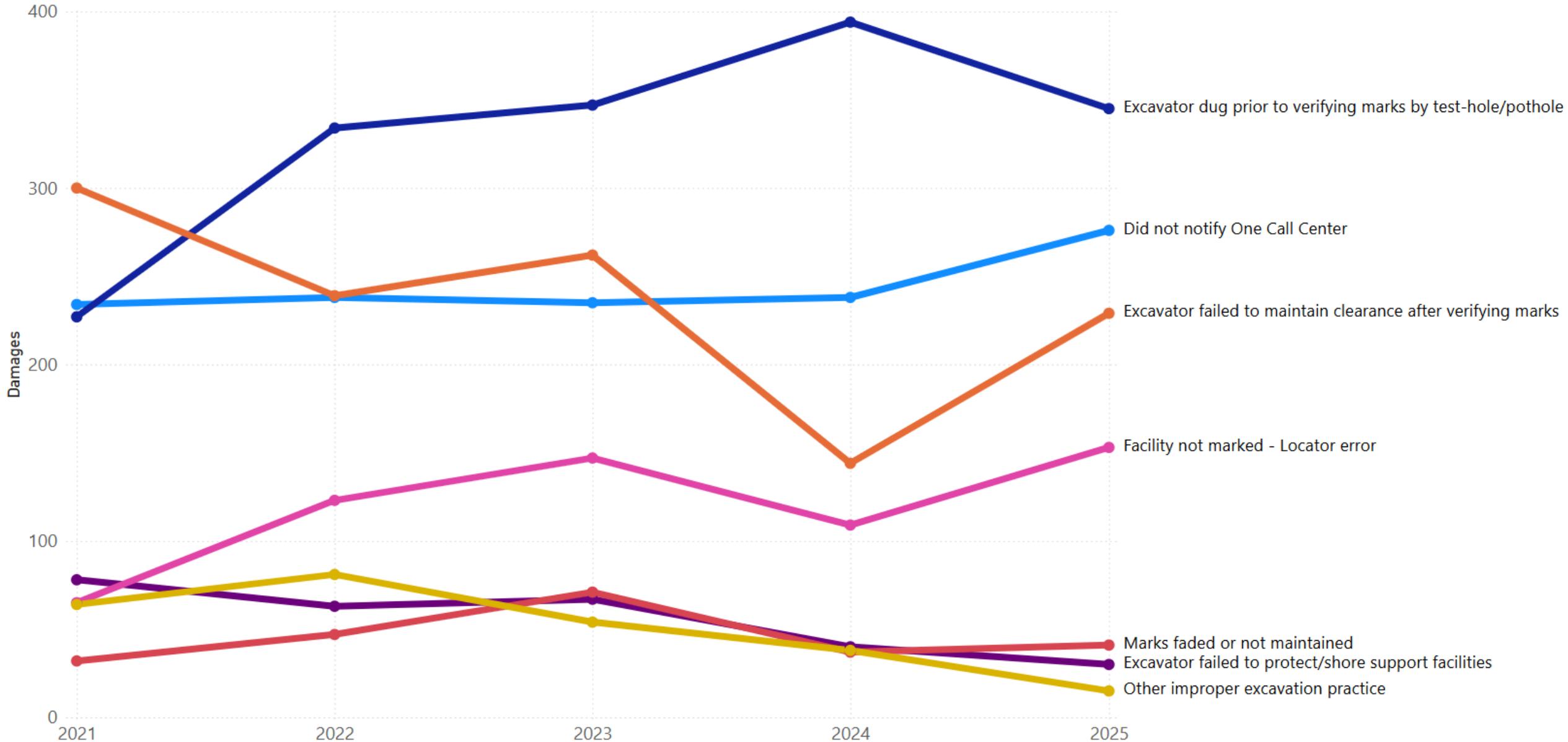
General Cause by Year



General Cause by Year



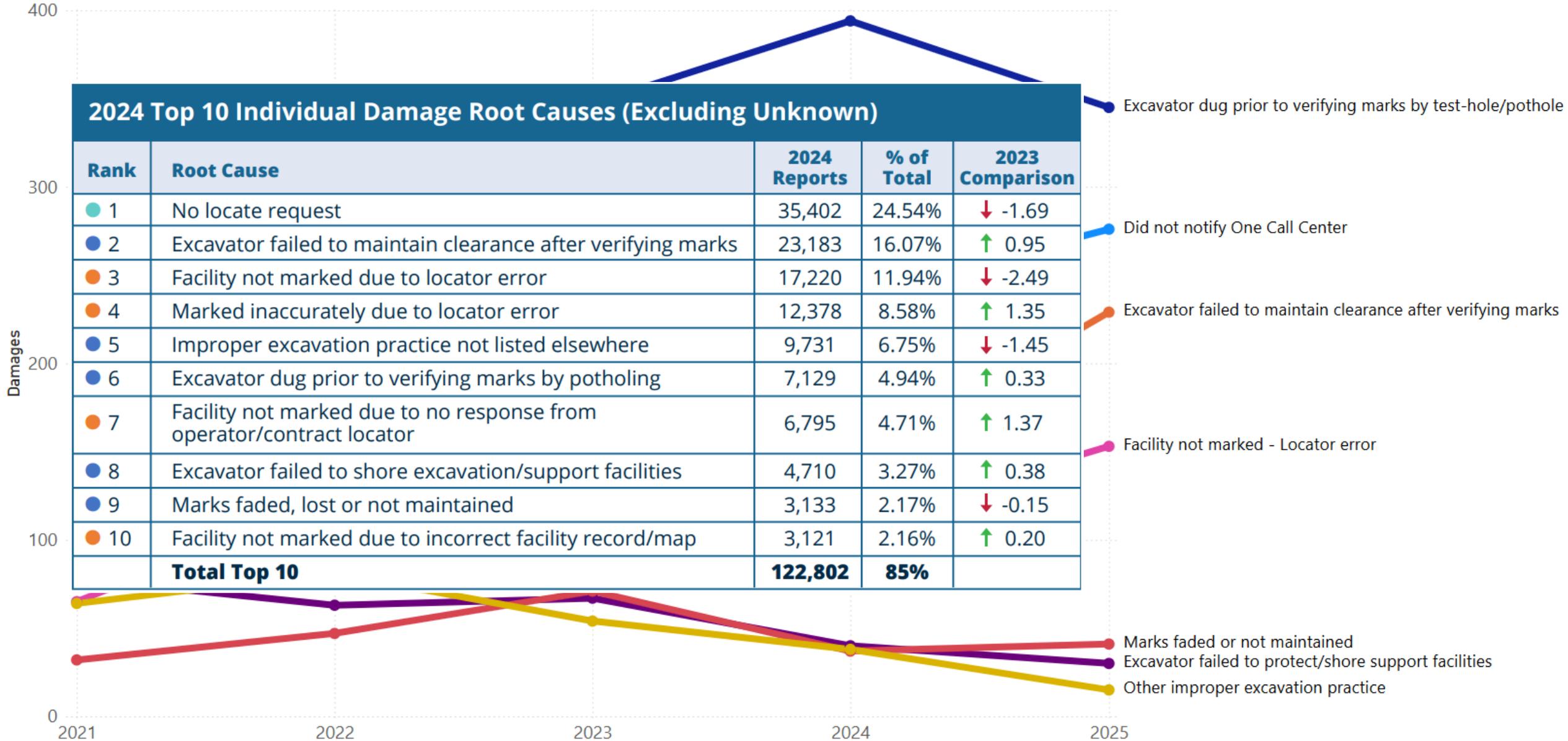
Specific Cause by Year



Specific Cause by Year

2024 Top 10 Individual Damage Root Causes (Excluding Unknown)

Rank	Root Cause	2024 Reports	% of Total	2023 Comparison
1	No locate request	35,402	24.54%	↓ -1.69
2	Excavator failed to maintain clearance after verifying marks	23,183	16.07%	↑ 0.95
3	Facility not marked due to locator error	17,220	11.94%	↓ -2.49
4	Marked inaccurately due to locator error	12,378	8.58%	↑ 1.35
5	Improper excavation practice not listed elsewhere	9,731	6.75%	↓ -1.45
6	Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by potholing	7,129	4.94%	↑ 0.33
7	Facility not marked due to no response from operator/contract locator	6,795	4.71%	↑ 1.37
8	Excavator failed to shore excavation/support facilities	4,710	3.27%	↑ 0.38
9	Marks faded, lost or not maintained	3,133	2.17%	↓ -0.15
10	Facility not marked due to incorrect facility record/map	3,121	2.16%	↑ 0.20
Total Top 10		122,802	85%	



Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole/pothole

Did not notify One Call Center

Excavator failed to maintain clearance after verifying marks

Facility not marked - Locator error

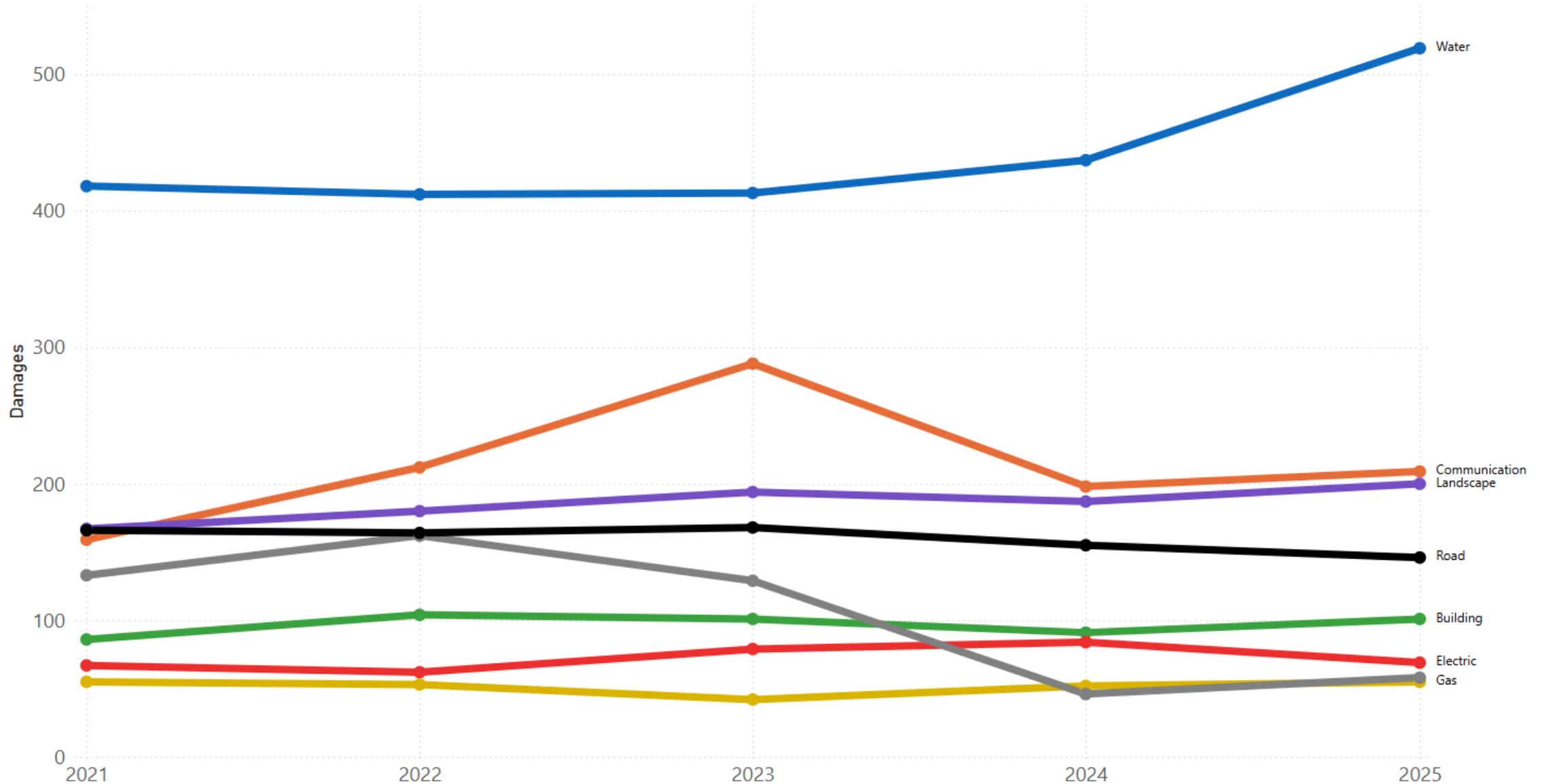
Marks faded or not maintained

Excavator failed to protect/shore support facilities

Other improper excavation practice

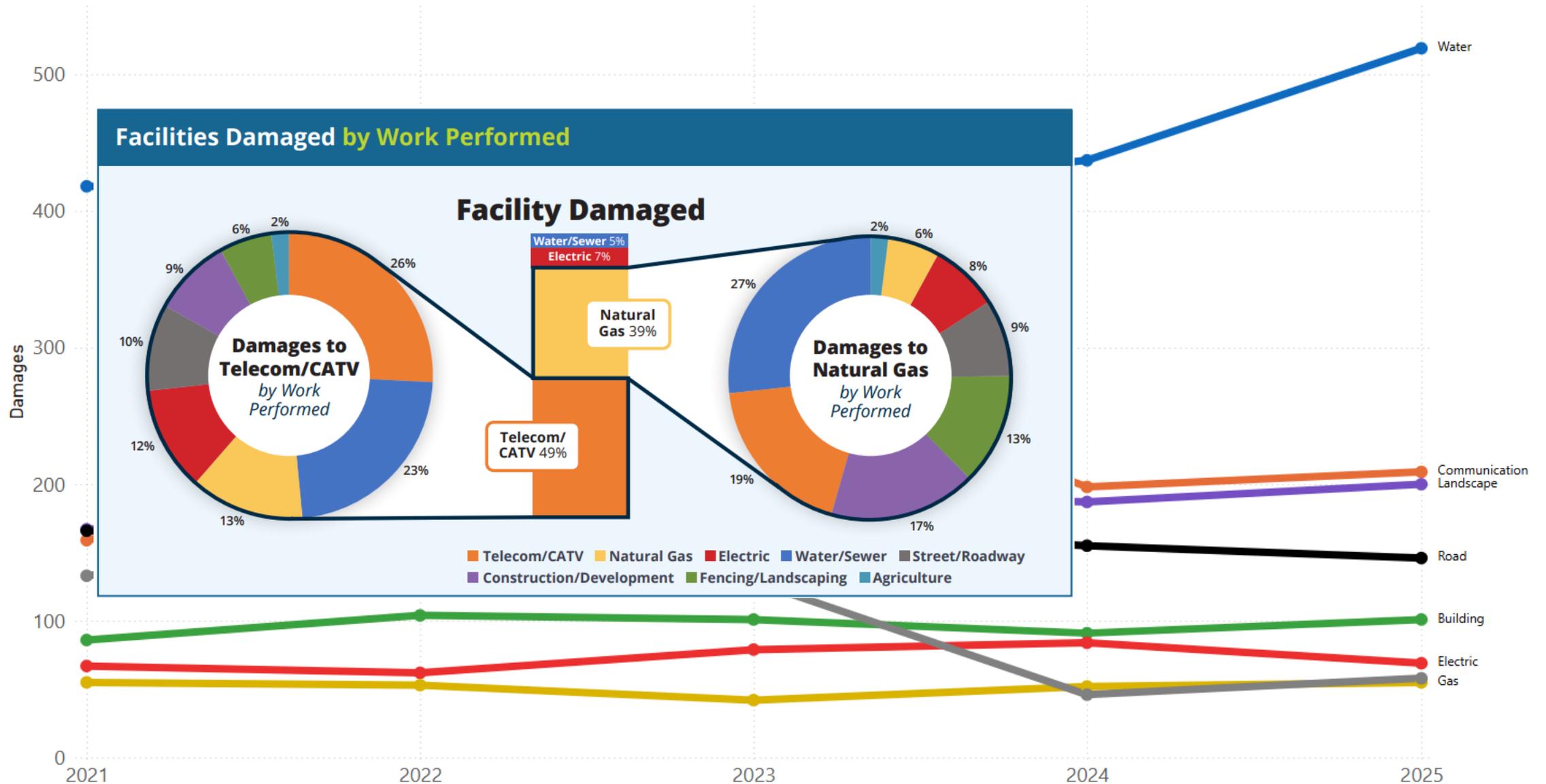
Work Type by Year

Work Type ● Building ● Communication ● Electric ● Gas ● Landscape ● Other ● Road ● Water



Work Type by Year

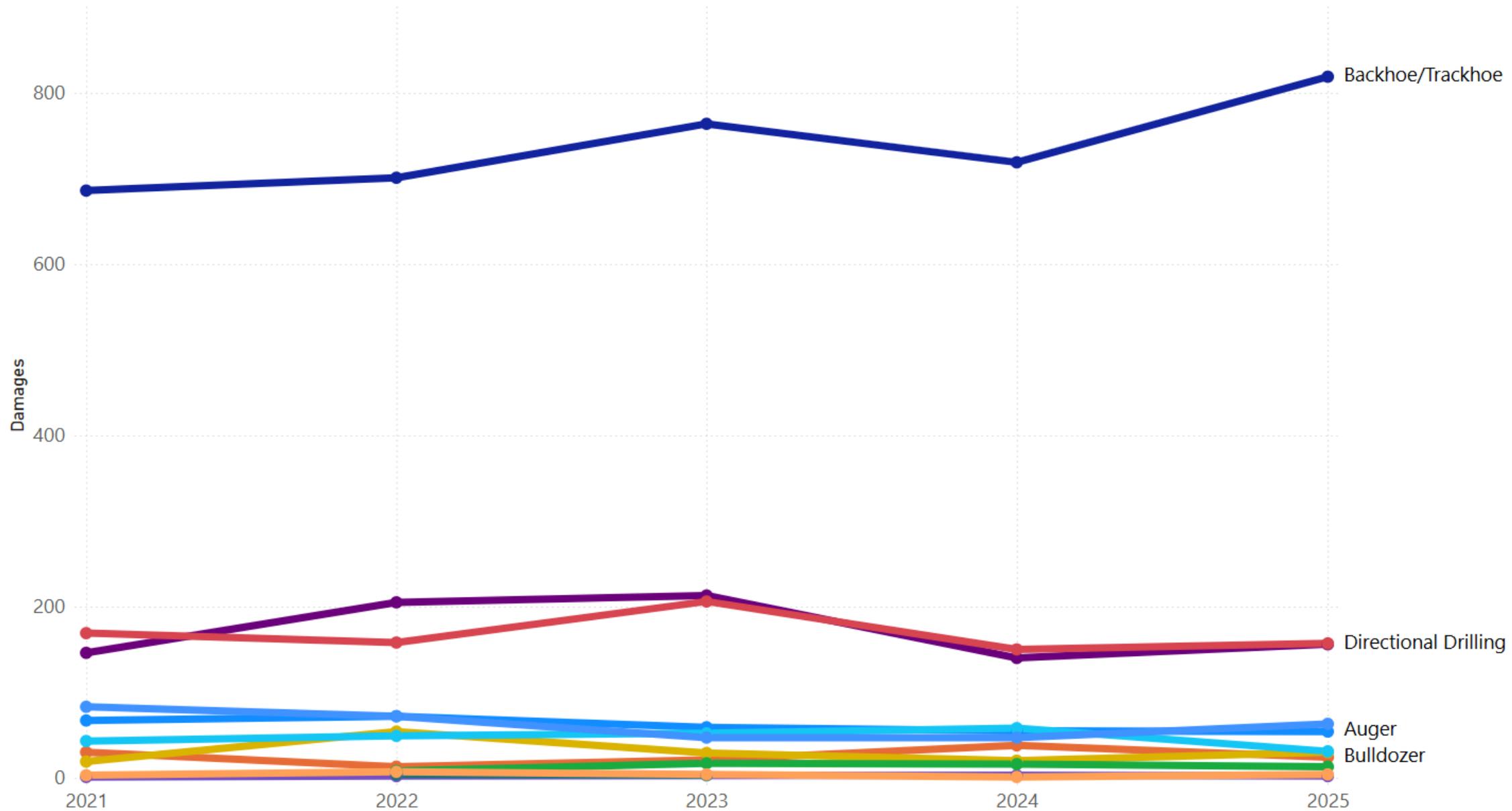
Work Type ● Building ● Communication ● Electric ● Gas ● Landscape ● Other ● Road ● Water



Equipment by Year

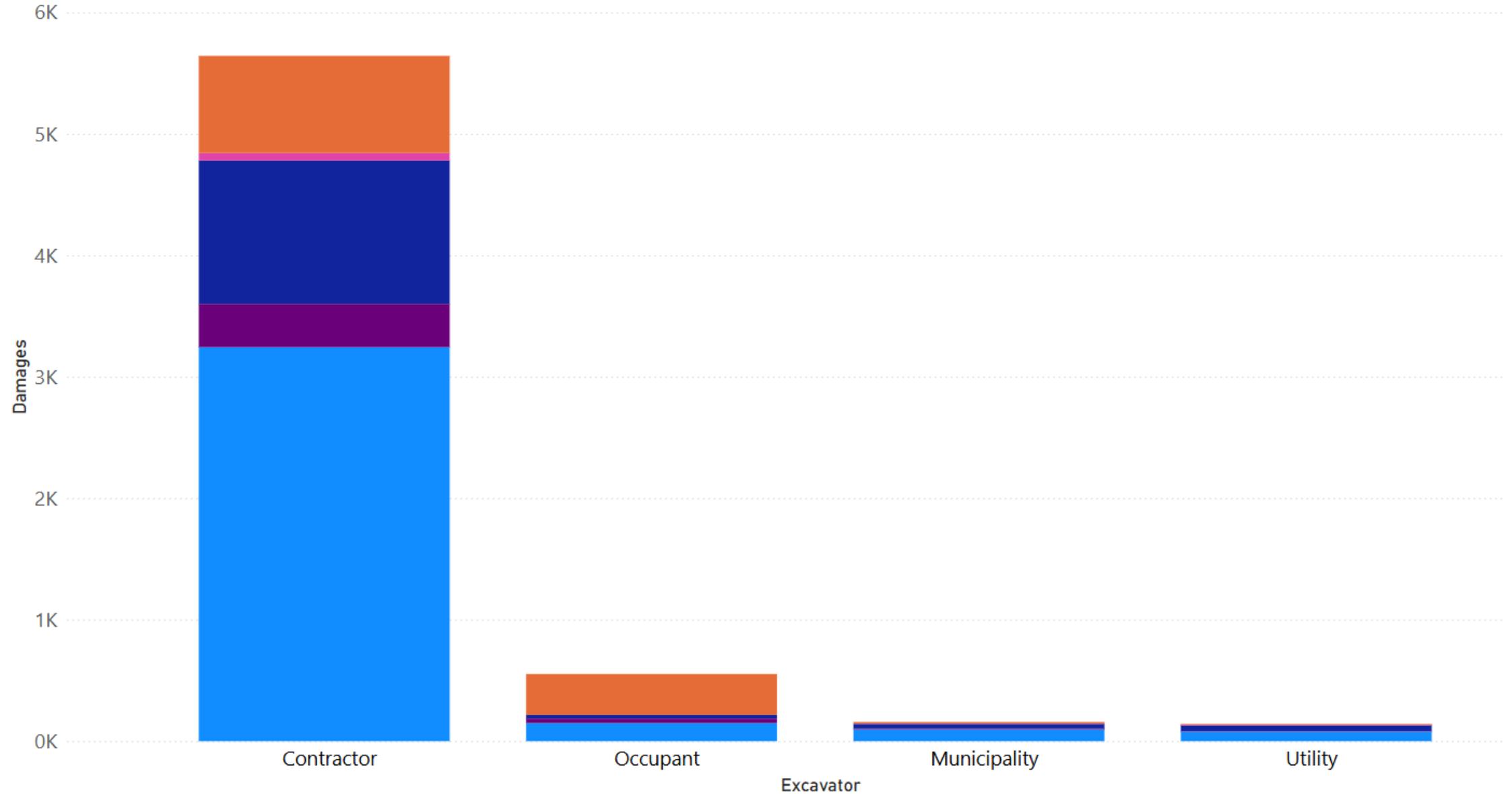
Equipment

- Auger
- Backhoe/Trackhoe
- Bulldozer
- Directional Drilling
- Farm Equipment
- Grader/Scraper
- Hand Tools
- Milling Equipment
- Probing Device
- Trencher
- Unknown/Other
- Vacuum Equipment



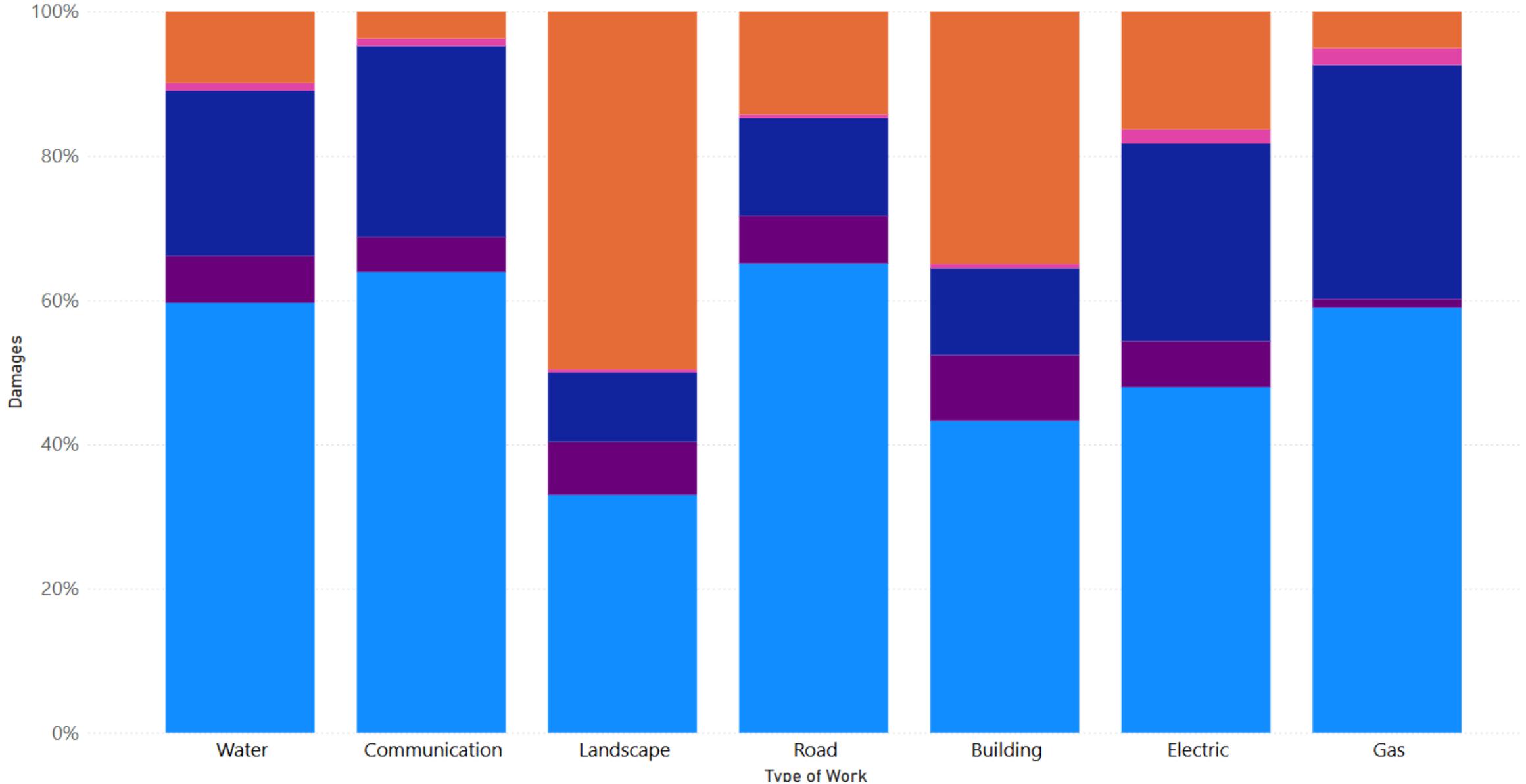
General Cause by Excavator

Cause ● Excavation practice ● Invalid use ● Locating practice ● Miscellaneous ● No locate



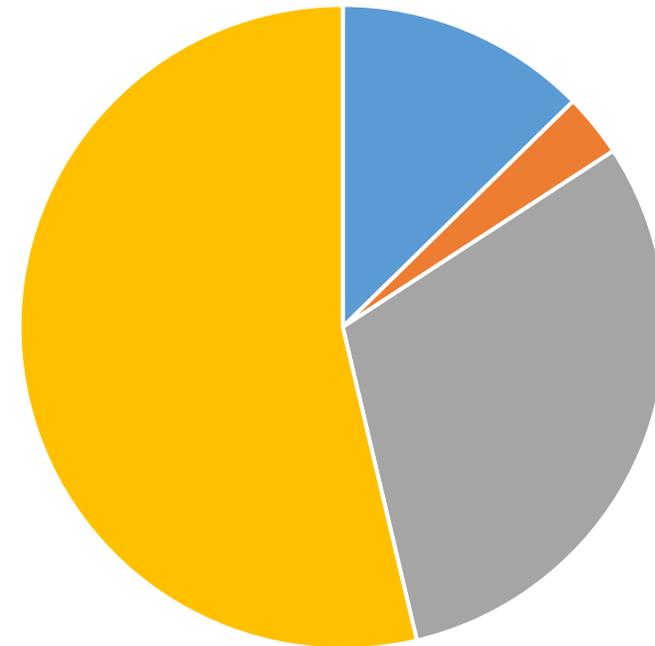
General Cause by Work Type

Cause ● Excavation practice ● Invalid use ● Locating practice ● Miscellaneous ● No locate



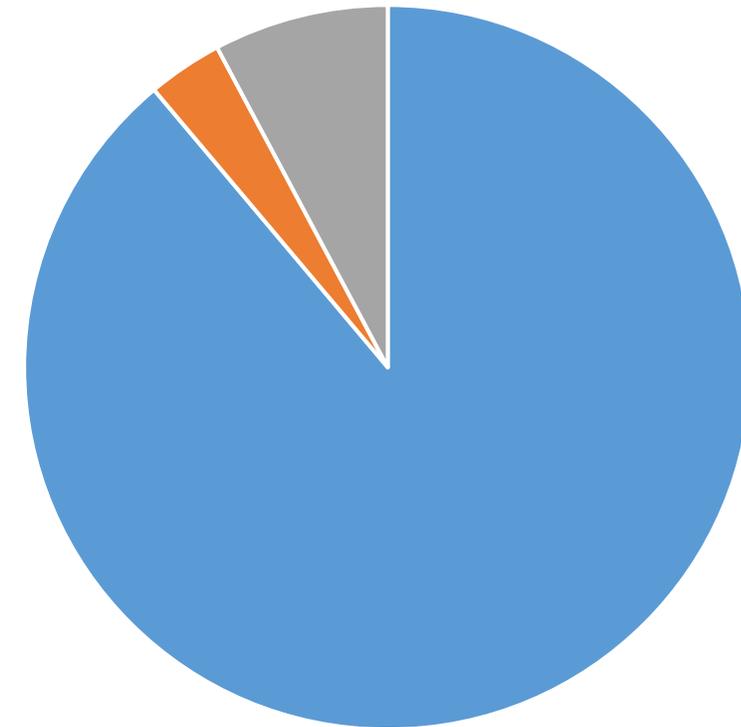
- One-call complaint enforcement
 - Complaints may be filed for violations of state one call law
 - Only involving natural gas/hazardous materials
 - Complaints go to panel first – either dismiss, assign education, or refer to the PSC
 - For referred complaints, PSC must hold hearing unless an agreement is reached
 - PSC may require to attend an educational course, assign forfeiture, or both.
 - Complaint process in place since 2018

- Total complaints filed: **95**
 - Referred to PSC: **51**
 - Panel referred for education: **29**
 - Dismissed: **12**
 - Rescinded: **3**



■ Dismissed ■ Rescinded
■ Referred for education ■ Referred to PSC

- Total complaints filed against:
 - Excavators: **80**
 - Locators: **7**
 - Facility owners: **3**



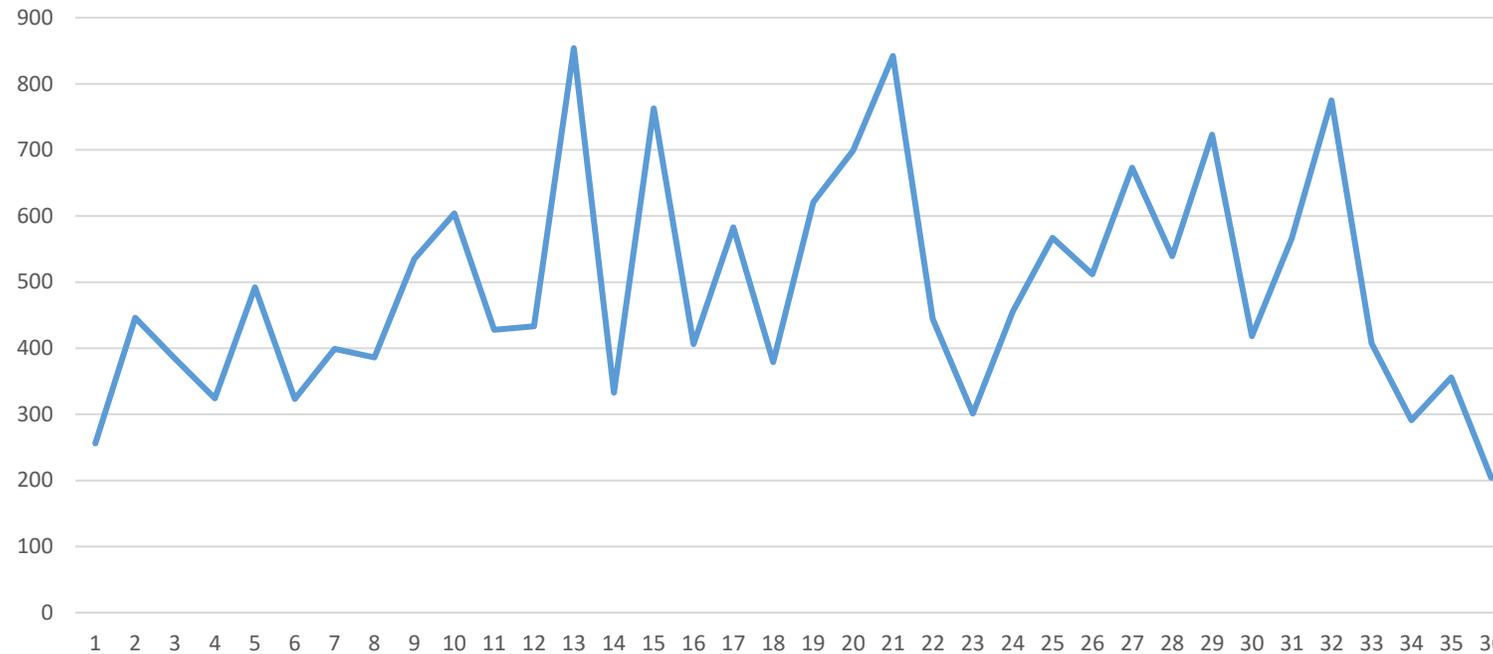
- Filed against excavators
- Filed against facility owners
- Filed against locators

- *Average complaint processing time at the PSC:*

- Average complaint processing time at the PSC:

492 days

Complaint Processing time in days



Questions?



Planning/Notification Challenges and Successes

February 3, 2026

Kevin Boyer, EMCS

Michael Birschbach, WisDOT

Mike Meyer, Diggers Hotline

Kelly Skiles, We Energies

Alex Kirschling, moderator



Locating Challenges and Successes

February 3, 2026

Curt Campagna, City of Milwaukee

Kevin Kolb, WPS

Justin Larson, Xcel Energy

Kelly Skiles, We Energies

Mike Meyer, Diggers Hotline, moderator



Excavation Challenges and Successes

February 3, 2026

Curt Campagna, City of Milwaukee

Ryan Klopf, Musson Brothers

Ralph Miller, Michels

Steve Peterson, TD&I

Mike Meyer, Diggers Hotline, moderator



Wisconsin Damage Prevention Council Meeting

February 3, 2026

Mike Meyer, Diggers Hotline