

FRESH DIRT

Changes in 2018

As part of our continuing series on 2018 revisions to DIRT, we recap the new questions and fields added to the DIRT form.

We are now past the transition period when DIRT users were entering their 2017 data, while at the same time those who enter their reports as they occur were entering 2018 data.

No matter when you enter your data into DIRT, you should be aware of the new questions and fields so that the information can be captured as damage and near-miss events are investigated. If you wait until March of 2019 to enter your 2018 data, it may not be possible to go back and retrieve it.

More information about the new questions and changes to the DIRT form can be found in the “New DIRT Field Form Toolkit” which can be accessed from the CGA website [here](#).

The new questions/fields are:

- Did event involve a cross bore?
- Was facility operator exempt from one call membership?
- Minimum depth from grade
- Was excavator/excavation exempt from 811 notification?
- Was work area white-lined?

In addition, the root causes have been revamped.

When entering 2018 data, make sure the Specification Version is set to “New Version using File 2018.0.” If you enter reports one-at-a-time, the online questionnaire will guide you through the questions. If you enter reports one-at-a-time, the online questionnaire

will guide you through the questions. If you enter multiple reports at once using File Upload, make sure you are using the correct and properly formatted file version. Because some DIRT questions have been deleted and others added, the file columns now line up differently. You’ll get error messages if you try to enter 2018 events with the same file format you used for 2017.

DIRT users who submit by bulk upload are encouraged to do at least one mid-year 2018 data load to make sure they’re doing it properly and make corrections if necessary. This will help avoid a crunch as the data entry deadline approaches on March 31, 2019, especially with the annual CGA conference being later than usual (March 26-28, 2019).

If you have any questions or need further assistance, contact DIRT Program Manager Steve Blaney at 571-297-0810.