

FRESH DIRT

Changes in 2018

As part of our continuing series on revisions to DIRT for events on or after Jan. 1, 2018, we discuss the DIRT Sandbox and how it can be used to prepare data submissions.

The DIRT Sandbox is like a “pretend” version of DIRT. The software engineers use it to test for bugs before going live with revisions. DIRT users can practice entering reports and become familiar with DIRT’s features. Sandbox data is kept separate from live DIRT and is not used for annual DIRT reports.

DIRT Sandbox requires a separate registration. To register, go to sandbox.cga-dirt.com and click on “Begin Registration...”

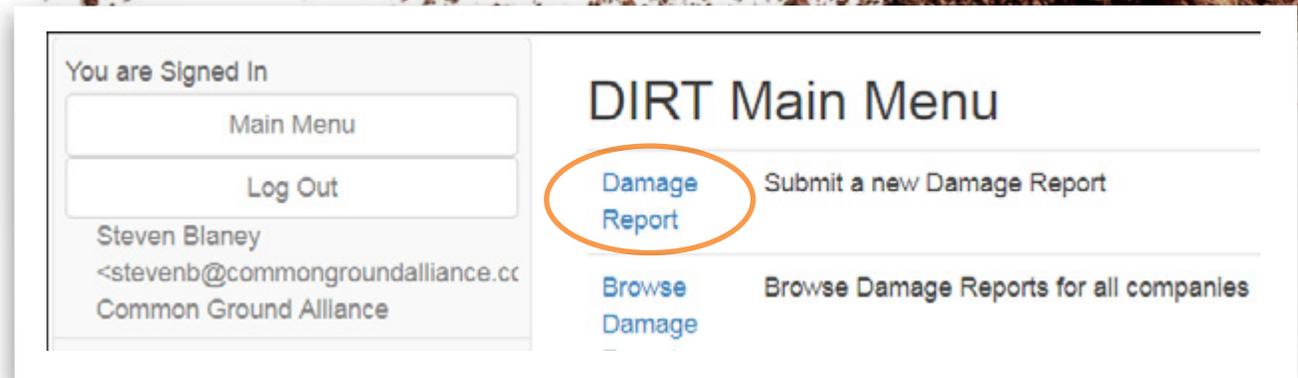


Figure A



Figure B

A Sandbox version of the 2018 DIRT revisions is now available. Since we continue to collect 2017 data using the current form, the Damage Report feature has a DIRT Specification Version drop-down to switch between versions. (Figures A & B)

For those who submit by Automated Data Loading (i.e. Excel CSV files), the file Upload Specification has the same feature. (Figures C & D)

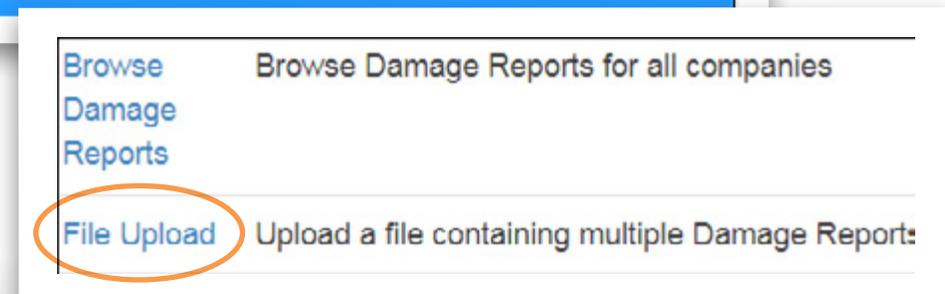


Figure C

Figure D

CGA Virtual Private DIRT Demo - File Upload

Upload legacy ADL Delimited Text File

The legacy ADL (Automated Data Loader) format accepts comma-, tab-, or pipe-delimited text files in a very specific format, described in the [File Upload Specification](#) document.

Submitted data is validated immediately on upload and is saved only if *all* rows in the file pass validation.

DIRT Specification Version:

Next version, 2018.0

-- select --

Original v1, 2006

Next version, 2018.0

-- Select --



Sample Files:

The following data files are available as examples. Right-click on the links below and choose **Save Link As...** to save these sample files to your PC:

[sample_adl_2.xls](#)

Microsoft Excel 95/97 spreadsheet containing some sample data. DIRT File Upload does not support Excel spreadsheets, but you can create valid text files from this document by choosing **File->Save As...** and picking either **Text (Tab Delimited) (*.txt)** or **CSV (Comma Delimited) (*.csv)**, creating either of the two sample files below.

Figure E

In addition, by scrolling to the end of the File Upload Specification you can also find sample Excel files that are formatted with columns matching the revised questions, and a few rows of sample data that can be overwritten with your own data. (Figure E)

DIRT users are encouraged to use the Sandbox to become familiar with the revised DIRT form. Sandbox data does not need to be real. It can be made up, or old data can be used by making up new dates and scrambling other fields. For testing purposes, Sandbox, 2018.0

accepts reports dated on or after June 1, 2017. When the form revisions are applied to live DIRT the date will be Jan. 1, 2018.

If you notice any software bugs, or have other questions or concerns, please use the Support feature on the Main Menu.

REMINDER: The current DIRT form remains in effect for events occurring in 2017.

For events on or after Jan. 1, 2018, data should be collected according to the revised DIRT form, even if it won't be entered in DIRT

until later (e.g.,: As the deadline for 2018 data approaches in March 2019). This is where switching between specific versions becomes important. Both versions will be needed for at least the first quarter of 2018, as users will be entering 2017 data through March 31, 2018, while at the same time potentially entering 2018 reports. At some time after March 31, 2018 the original version will be removed.