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Report: Underground Utility Damage Costs America \$83.2 billion a Year

Damage to the utility lines beneath America's feet costs the U.S. economy an estimated \$83.2 billion every year — more than \$227 million every day — according to a landmark report released Aug. 13 by [Common Ground Alliance \(CGA\)](#).

The new estimate is nearly three times the widely cited \$30 billion benchmark established in 2019. It reflects the [rising number of damage incidents](#) alongside the most comprehensive accounting of what happens after an underground power, gas, oil, communications, water or other critical utility is struck.

The new report's most striking finding: Repairing damaged utility lines represents just 5.9% of the total economic impact. For every dollar spent on direct repairs, nearly \$16 is lost to consequences such as business interruptions, construction delays, emergency response, road closures, injuries, property damage and community disruption.

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Water Finance & Management

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