

FAQs, or, The Dirt on DIRT:

General

If you cannot find an answer to your question, contact API/PPTS staff (adefemia@api.org or arafa@api.org) for further assistance

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How is this better than just filling out the DIRT form?

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You and your colleagues will only be entering information once. This minimizes the time spent and the room for errors. Importantly, it also provides an opportunity for the oil pipeline industry to learn from the information you’re submitting to DIRT by conducting its own analyses of the oil pipeline damage data. (Most DIRT compilations combine different types of operators, but the hazards for telecommunications companies and gas utilities, for instance, are not necessarily the same as those for oil pipelines.)

Is the information supplied to DIRT via PPTS as complete as the information that would be supplied directly to DIRT, or is it “DIRT-Lite”?

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The DIRT organization has certified that the combined reporting system is fully compliant with DIRT reporting requirements. Please contact us if you need a copy of this communication.

How often will API upload the entries to DIRT?

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Annually, after the DIRT deadline of May 15.

FAQs on DIRT

Questions? Contact Bukky Adefemi
adefemia@api.org

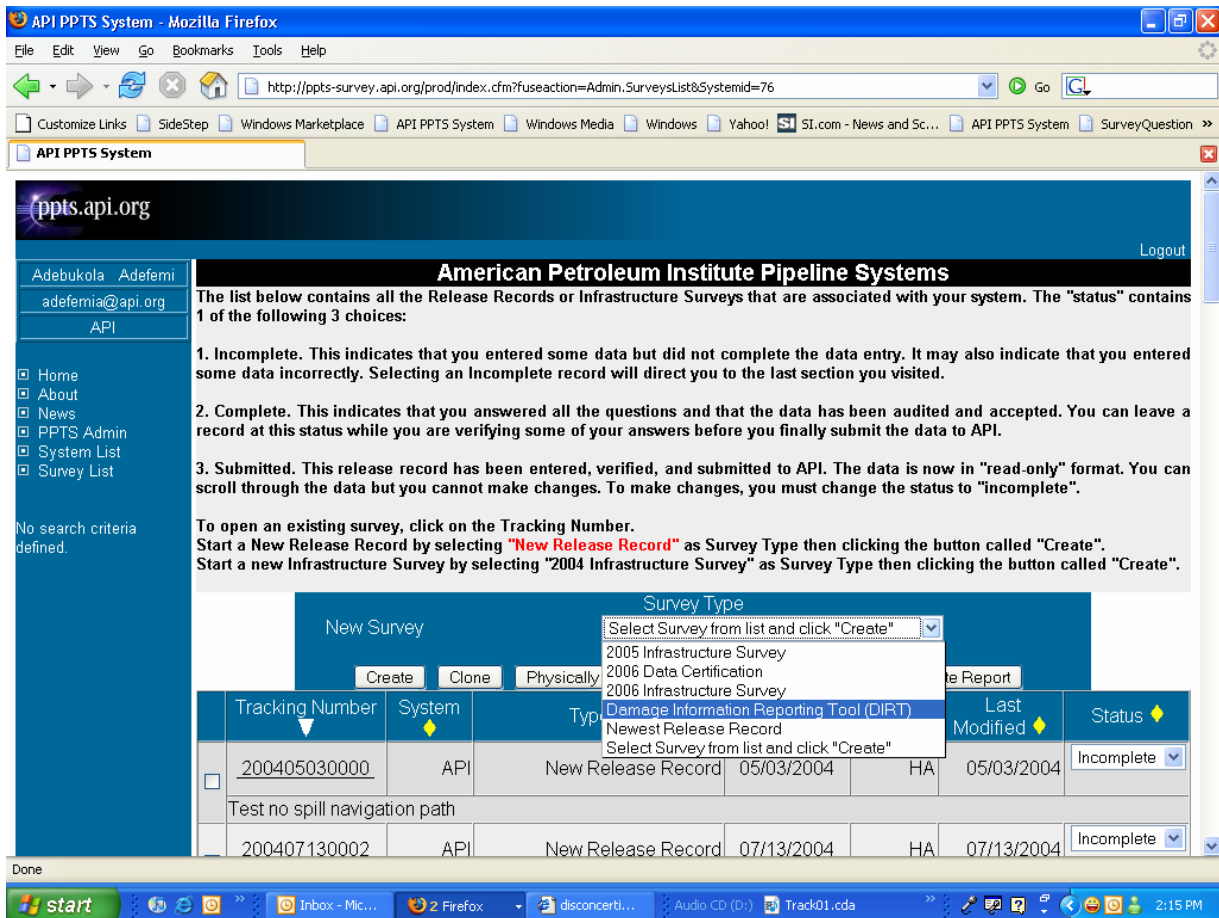
Does this mean I have until May 15 to file my PPTS-DIRT incidents? [\[Back to top\]](#)

NO, it does not. The deadline for filing a release in PPTS is still February 28. Both the PPTS and the DIRT portion of any *releases* must also be submitted by February 28. (Remember, the PPTS portion cannot be submitted until the DIRT portion is also complete.) For incidents that are not reportable to PPTS but are reportable to DIRT, such as any incident (or event) that involves contact with the pipe but no release, or one that involves the potential for contact (such as people excavating in the Right-of-Way with no one call or line locate marks), the DIRT deadline applies: May 15.

I understand that DIRT also receives reports of incidents that don't result in a release. How will I put those into PPTS? [\[Back to top\]](#)

We have created a new type of survey in PPTS for any incident (or event) that involves contact with the pipe but no release, or one that involves the potential for contact (such as people excavating in the Right-of-Way with no one call or line locate marks). Neither of these types of incidents would be reportable to the traditional PPTS form, which is focused on releases. These non-release incidents will be stored in a different file on the API server, and will have a different set of Survey IDs, so they won't be confused with incidents that involve a release. They won't be used in calculating your company's PPTS performance record. However, they will provide useful new metrics on external force damage to pipelines for the industry.

To access this new survey, "**Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT)**" you'll log into PPTS in the regular way and then from the drop down menu for "Survey Type," select "Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT)," then click "Create." See the screen below.



Am I required to enter reports of incidents that don't result in a release? [\[Back to top\]](#)

Entering the reports of incidents or events that don't result in a release is done on a voluntary basis. While there is no PPTS requirement, you are highly encouraged to enter these incidents and events so that both DIRT and PPTS can analyze the data and compile learnings from these incidents.

I enter the PPTS information, but someone else submits my company's information to DIRT. How will that work? [\[Back to top\]](#)

You're not alone with this situation. It will be up to each company to coordinate reporting for PPTS and DIRT and get all of the information into the PPTS system. API will be pleased to help facilitate the process. For instance,

1. Your colleague who collects and submits the information to DIRT can provide that information to you and you can enter it into the PPTS/DIRT system; OR
2. API can provide your colleague with access to the PPTS system so that you can enter the PPTS information, provide your colleague with the pertinent Survey ID, and your colleague can then log on to the PPTS system and enter the DIRT-related reporting elements for each incident. Your colleague could also log on to the system to report any of the non-release incidents that aren't reportable to

PPTS. This work flow will allow individuals to complete their tasks at their own pace. Remember that you will not be able to submit a release that involves mechanical damage to PPTS until both the PPTS portion and the DIRT portion of the record are complete. You and your colleague will want to make sure you have clarified any mechanisms you need to close the loop on submittals.

My company operates in a state where DIRT reporting is required by statute. My boss says I can't report through PPTS. What should I do? [\[Back to top\]](#)

We've taken care of this by providing a check box if you wish to report the incident directly to DIRT. You'll still enter the incident into the PPTS/DIRT system, but API won't include your incident in its upload to the DIRT server. Please give us a call if there are other concerns that we need to address in this regard.

My company operates in a state that also has an electronic reporting system for DIRT. How will that work with PPTS reporting? [\[Back to top\]](#)

This issue has only recently been pointed out. API and the Data Mining Team are working with states and state pipeline regulators to minimize the reporting burden and the potential for duplicate reports submitted to DIRT.

Can I print my PPTS-DIRT report so I can send it to DIRT? [\[Back to top\]](#)

Before the end of the second quarter 2007, you will be able to print out DIRT reports that may be sent to CGA so that you will not need to enter data twice, unless of course you prefer to.

My boss wants to know exactly how the information submitted to PPTS is being transferred to fill in the DIRT form. What goes where? [\[Back to top\]](#)

We've created a file that shows all of the "mapping" from PPTS to DIRT. (**Click here to find "<http://committees.api.org/pipeline/ppts/files.html>"**) Please scroll all the way down to see the document. There are a few places where the PPTS question is slightly different from a similar DIRT question, and the DIRT organization has approved our mapping. Where there is no one-to-one mapping possible or where DIRT requests information not available from PPTS, we will ask you or your colleagues to enter that information.

Will I have to register with DIRT? [\[Back to top\]](#)

No. With this batched upload system, you will not be required to communicate directly with DIRT at all.