

Special Incident Modifier: FIFA World Cup 2026



Purpose

The World Cup 2026 Incident Modifier is a temporary NERIS incident modifier designed to identify incidents that are directly or indirectly associated with activities related to the FIFA World Cup 2026. This modifier allows agencies to capture operational impacts, resource demands, and community effects associated with World Cup events, watch parties, celebrations, crowd gatherings, and related public safety activities. The modifier should be applied whenever the incident is reasonably connected to a World Cup-related event, gathering, or activity.

Why Use This Modifier?

- Identify increased call volume related to World Cup activities
- Measure public safety impacts associated with large gatherings
- Support after-action reviews and operational planning
- Assist local, state, and federal partners in understanding event-related trends
- Document resource utilization during a major international event

Examples of Appropriate Use

Incident Type	When to Apply	Examples
Medical Incidents	Any medical incident occurring in an officially sanctioned World Cup facility or event would qualify. This could include, but is not limited to: heat-related emergencies at outdoor viewing events; alcohol-related medical emergencies; crowd surge injuries; possible stampedes; spectator injuries; individuals entering the playing field; medical complaints from celebratory or disorderly crowd behavior; medical responses from law enforcement requests during crowd-control operations	Unit responds to a patient who's experiencing a heat-related emergency within a designated fan fest event. Unit responds to a patient injured during a crowd rush following a match-winning goal. Ambulance units assigned to standby for a large crowd gathering.
Law Enforcement Assist	Crowd control operations; riot or disorderly crowd response; public safety standbys; security-related incidents; civil disturbances associated with celebrations or protests; large-scale crowd management events	Units requested to stage for a large gathering where crowd behavior is becoming increasingly aggressive. Units requested to stage for a suspicious package evaluation.
Fire and Rescue	Fires associated with celebrations, outdoor cooking or grilling fires at official viewing events; vehicle fires in event parking areas; rescue incidents occurring at fan zones or gathering locations	A unit responds to a small fire caused by celebratory fireworks after a match. Car fire occurs in official parking lot area. Unit responds to a motor vehicle collision inside match parking area.

When Not to Use

Do not apply the modifier when there is no reasonable connection between the incident and World Cup-related activities. Typically, the geographic location of the incident will be a justifiable reason to “link” an incident to this special event. However, any reasonable connection could be used if valid and justifiable. *Example: A medical emergency occurring on a shuttle bus between parking and an event, even though not on site of an official gathering, would not qualify.*

Examples of times when not to use include:

- *A routine medical call in a residential neighborhood with no connection to World Cup events should not receive the modifier.*
- *A motor vehicle accident near an event gathering, but unrelated to the World Cup.*
- *A house fire that occurs because of unattended food from occupants distracted by the game on television.*
- *A medical emergency in a restaurant from a fan with a World Cup shirt on, but obviously not part of any organized gathering.*

Key Principle

If the World Cup event, gathering, celebration, or associated activity contributed to the need for emergency response, consider applying the World Cup 2026 Incident Modifier. This modifier is intended to provide a clearer picture of the operational impacts of one of the largest international events ever hosted in North America and to help the fire and emergency services community learn from the experience.