

# CWS-002 — Incident Classification & Severity Levels

## Normative Module

## Meta

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## Scope

This module defines the classification and severity levels applicable to Incidents and Near-Misses under the CWS framework.

It establishes a standardized method for identifying, categorizing, and grading the severity of events involving dogs, independently of cause, intent, or outcome management.

## Incident vs Near-Miss

Under the CWS framework, Incidents and Near-Misses shall be classified separately but documented with equal rigor.

The absence of harm does not reduce the relevance of a Near-Miss when evaluating Risk, Exposure, or Conformance.

## Severity Levels

### Severity Level S0 — No Incident

## **S0 — No Incident**

A documented situation in which no Incident or Near-Miss has occurred, but where monitoring or observation has been conducted for traceability or preventive assessment purposes.

## **Severity Level S1 — Near-Miss**

### **S1 — Near-Miss**

A documented Near-Miss involving one or more dogs, with no physical harm or injury, but demonstrating a credible potential to escalate into an Incident under slightly different conditions.

## **Severity Level S2 — Minor Incident**

### **S2 — Minor Incident**

An Incident resulting in minor physical harm, brief distress, or limited adverse impact, not requiring significant medical, veterinary, or external intervention.

## **Severity Level S3 — Serious Incident**

### **S3 — Serious Incident**

An Incident resulting in significant physical injury, sustained distress, escape, or damage requiring veterinary, medical, legal, or external professional intervention.

## **Severity Level S4 — Critical Incident**

### **S4 — Critical Incident**

An Incident resulting in severe injury, fatality, permanent impairment, or outcomes with major legal, regulatory, or reputational consequences.

## **Incident Categories**

### **Behavioral Aggression**

#### **Behavioral Aggression**

Any Incident or Near-Miss involving aggressive behavior by a dog directed toward humans, other animals, or dogs, regardless of outcome.

## **Intra-Species Conflict**

### **Intra-Species Conflict**

Any Incident or Near-Miss involving conflict, escalation, or physical interaction between dogs.

## **Escape / Loss of Control**

### **Escape / Loss of Control**

Any Incident or Near-Miss involving the escape of a dog, loss of physical control, or unauthorized access to uncontrolled environments.

## **Stress-Induced Incident**

### **Stress-Induced Incident**

Any Incident or Near-Miss primarily associated with acute or chronic stress responses resulting in unsafe or adverse outcomes.

## **Environmental Hazard**

### **Environmental Hazard**

Any Incident or Near-Miss involving physical infrastructure, equipment, confinement conditions, or environmental factors contributing to risk.

## **Human Interaction Incident**

### **Human Interaction Incident**

Any Incident or Near-Miss arising from interaction between a dog and a human, excluding intentional acts of abuse.

## **Health-Related Incident**

### **Health-Related Incident**

Any Incident or Near-Miss in which underlying medical or physiological conditions contribute to risk or adverse outcomes.

## **Escalation Rules**

### **Escalation Principle**

## **Escalation Principle**

Under the CWS framework, escalation of severity classification shall follow a documented and coherent progression based on observed events, accumulated Risk, and Exposure over time.

## **Non-Linear Escalation Prohibition**

### **Non-Linear Escalation Prohibition**

Direct escalation from lower Severity Levels to higher Severity Levels without documented intermediate events, Near-Misses, or Risk Factors constitutes a Non-Conformance, except in cases of sudden, unforeseeable Critical Incidents.

## **Accumulation Rule**

### **Accumulation Rule**

Repeated Near-Misses or Minor Incidents within a defined timeframe shall be considered cumulatively when evaluating escalation, Risk, and Exposure.

## **Contextual Consistency Rule**

### **Contextual Consistency Rule**

Escalation decisions shall be consistent with the documented Environment, Density, Compatibility, and operational context in which events occurred.

## **Documentation Dependency Rule**

### **Documentation Dependency Rule**

Escalation of Severity Levels shall not be considered valid in the absence of documented evidence supporting the classification and progression.

## **Documentation Requirements**

### **Minimum Documentation Requirement**

#### **Minimum Documentation Requirement**

Any Incident or Near-Miss classified under the CWS framework shall be documented in a consistent, retrievable, and verifiable manner.

## Mandatory Data Elements

### **Mandatory Data Elements**

Documentation shall include, at minimum, the date, time, location, Severity Level, Incident Category, involved dogs, and the Environment in which the event occurred.

## Traceability Requirement

### **Traceability Requirement**

All documentation related to Incidents, Near-Misses, escalation decisions, and Risk assessments shall be retained to ensure traceability over time.

## Absence of Documentation Rule

### **Absence of Documentation Rule**

Any Incident, Near-Miss, or escalation decision lacking sufficient documentation shall be treated as a Non-Conformance under the CWS framework.

## Link to Conformance Levels

## Impact on Conformance

### **Impact on Conformance**

The classification, frequency, severity, and escalation of Incidents and Near-Misses directly impact the Conformance Level of a structure under the CWS framework.

## Threshold Dependency

### **Threshold Dependency**

Defined Thresholds associated with Severity Levels, Incident Categories, and escalation patterns shall determine eligibility for CWS-1, CWS-2, or CWS-3 Conformance Levels.

## Systemic Evaluation Principle

### **Systemic Evaluation Principle**

Conformance evaluation shall consider patterns, recurrence, and systemic risk rather than isolated events.