

HOW TO ESTIMATE WIND SPEED

By Sir Francis Beaufort

Although it originally was used by observing the behavior of the winds affect on war ships, the affects on land can be used as well. It is a scale ranging from 0 to 12 which ranges from calm to hurricane force winds. The force of the wind is taken from 15 feet above the ground.

What to look for	Description	Wind Speed (mph)	Beaufort Value
Nothing; No wind movement	Calm	0-1	0
Almost nothing; smoke drifts a bit	Light air	1-3	1
Leaves rustle; wind felt on face	Light breeze	4-7	2
Leaves in constant motion; extends light flag	Gentle breeze	8-12	3
Small branches moved; dust or paper blown about	Moderate breeze	13-18	4
Small trees sway; inland waters form wavelets	Fresh breeze	19-24	5
Large branches in motion; difficult to use umbrella	Strong breeze	25-31	6
Big trees in motion; tough to walk	Near gale	32-38	7
Twigs breaking on trees; hard to walk	Gale	39-46	8
Roof tiles start flying by	Severe gale	47-54	9
Trees start getting uprooted; lots of structural damage	Storm	55-63	10
Trees start flying by; trailer parks destroyed	Violent storm	64-72	11
Houses start flying by; straws get embedded in telephone poles	Hurricane	75+	12