

How hard is the wind blowing?

BEAUFORT WIND SCALE



1

LIGHT AIR 1-3 mph

Ripples with appearances of scales on the water. Direction of wind shown by smoke drift but not wind vanes.

2

LIGHT BREEZE 4-7 mph

Small wavelets, not breaking on the water. Wind felt on the face, leaves rustle, and an ordinary wind vane will be moved.

3

GENTLE BREEZE 8-12 mph

Ripples with appearances of scalse on the water. Direction of wind shown by smoke drift but not wind vanes.

4

MODERATE BREEZE 13-18 mph

Small waves becoming longer, numerous whitecaps on the water. Leaves and small twigs in constant motion, wind extends a light flag

5

FRESH BREEZE 19-24 mph

Moderate waves, taking longer form, many whitecaps, some spray. Small trees in leaf begin to sway.

6

STRONG BREEZE 25-31 mph

Larger waves, whitecaps everywhere, more spray. Large branches in motion, whistling heard in telegraph wires, umbrellas used with difficulty.

7

NEAR GALE 32-38 mph

Sea heaps up; white foam from breaking waves begins to be blown in streaks. Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt in walking against the wind.

8

GALE 39-46 mph

Moderately high waves, edges of crests begin to break into spindrift. Twigs break off trees, generally impedes progress

9

STRONG GALE 47-54 mph

High waves, sea begins to roll. Spray may reduce visibility. Slight structural damage may occur to buildings

10

STORM 55-63 mph

Very High waves with overhanging crests; sea turns white with foam. Trees uprooted, considerable structural damage occurs.

11

VIOLENT STORM 64-72 mph

Exceptionally high waves; sea covered with white foam patches, reduced visibility. Widespread structural damage

12

HURRICANE 73+ mph

Air filled with foam, sea completely white with driving spray, visibility reduced. Widespread structural damage