

# Special Feature

## Wind Speeds

With the arrival of autumn, the winds start to strengthen. Wind is measured by the Beaufort Scale. The Beaufort Scale was created in 1805 by Sir Francis Beaufort, an Irish man who became a naval officer in the British Navy. In the navy at that time, weather observations were regularly made but there was no

standard scale. One person's "strong breeze" could be another's "calm conditions". At first the scale referred only to numbers from zero to 12 and these related to the affect the wind had on the sails of a "man-of-war" ship, then the main ship of the British Navy. "Just sufficient to give steerage" and "that which no canvas [sails] could withstand", are examples of how the strength of the wind was measured by the scale. The scale was officially uses in ship's log entries on British Navy vessels in the late 1830s.

Beaufort Number	Wind Speed (mph)	Description		Effects on Land
0	0-1	Calm		Calm; smoke rises vertically
1	1-3	Light air		Direction of wind shown by smoke drift, but not by wind vane.
2	4-7	Light Breeze		Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; ordinary vanes moved by wind.
3	8-12	Gentle Breeze		Leaves and small twigs in constant motion; wind extends light flag.
4	13-18	Moderate Breeze		Raises dust and loose paper; small branches are moved.
5	19-24	Fresh Breeze		Small trees in leaf begin to sway; crested wavelets form on inland waters.
6	25-31	Strong Breeze		Large branches in motion; whistling heard in telegraph wires; umbrellas used with difficulty.
7	32-38	Near Gale		Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt when walking against the wind.
8	39-46	Gale		Breaks twigs off trees; generally impedes progress.
9	47-54	Severe Gale		Slight structural damage occurs (chimney-pots and slates removed).
10	55-63	Storm		Seldom experienced inland; trees uprooted; considerable structural damage occurs.
11	64-72	Violent Storm		Very rarely experienced; accompanied by wide-spread damage.
12	73-higher	Hurricane		-

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