

BEAUFORT WIND SCALE

Beaufort number or force	Wind Speed (knots)	Description	Land Effects	Sea Effects
0	<1	Calm	Still, calm air; smoke will rise vertically.	Water is mirror-like.
1	1-3	Light air	Rising smoke drifts; wind vane does not move.	Small ripples appear on water surface.
2	4-6	Light breeze	Leaves rustle; wind felt on face; wind vanes begin to move.	Small wavelets develop, crests are glassy.
3	7-10	Gentle breeze	Leaves and small twigs move constantly; lightweight flags extend.	Large wavelets; crests start to break; some white-crested wavelets.
4	11-16	Moderate breeze	Small branches move; dust, leaves and paper raise up.	Small waves develop, becoming longer; frequent whitecaps.
5	17-21	Fresh breeze	Small trees sway.	More whitecaps form; some spray.
6	22-27	Strong breeze	Large tree branches move; telephone wires begin to "whistle"; umbrellas are difficult to control.	Larger waves form; whitecaps prevalent; spray.
7	28-33	Near gale	Large trees sway; becomes difficult to walk.	Larger waves develop; white foam begins to be blown.
8	34-40	Gale	Twigs and small branches break off trees; walking is difficult.	Moderately large waves with blown foam.
9	41-47	Strong gale	Slight damage occurs to buildings; shingles are blown off roofs.	High waves (6 meters); rolling seas; dense foam. Blowing spray reduces visibility.
10	48-55	Storm	Trees are broken or uprooted; building damage is considerable.	Large waves (6-9 meters); overhanging crests; sea white with foam; heavy rolling; reduced visibility.
11	56-63	Violent storm	Extensive, widespread damage.	Large waves (9-14 meters); white foam; visibility further reduced.
12	64+	Hurricane	Destruction, devastation.	Large waves taller than 14 meters; air filled with foam; sea white with foam and driving spray; little visibility.