

BEAUFORT SCALE

Number	Description	Wind speed	Land conditions
0	CALM	< 1 km/h	Calm. Smoke rises vertically.
		< 1 mph	
1	LIGHT AIR	1 à 5 km/h	Smoke drift indicates wind direction and wind vanes cease moving.
		1–3 mph	
2	LIGHT BREEZE	6 à 11 km/h	Wind felt on exposed skin. Leaves rustle and wind vanes begin to move.
		4–7 mph	
3	GENTLE BREEZE	12 à 19 km/h	Leaves and small twigs constantly moving, light flags extended.
		8–12 mph	
4	MODERATE BREEZE	20 à 28 km/h	Dust and loose paper raised. Small branches begin to move.
		13–17 mph	
5	FRESH BREEZE	29 à 38 km/h	Branches of a moderate size move. Small trees in leaf begin to sway.
		18–24 mph	
6	STRONG BREEZE	39 à 49 km/h	Large branches in motion. Whistling heard in overhead wires. Umbrella use becomes difficult. Empty plastic garbage cans tip over.
		25–30 mph	
7	HIGH WIND, MODERATE GALE	50 à 61 km/h	Whole trees in motion. Effort needed to walk against the wind.
		31–38 mph	
8	GALE, FRESH GALE	62 à 74 km/h	Some twigs broken from trees. Cars veer on road. Progress on foot is seriously impeded.
		39–46 mph	
9	STRONG GALE	75 à 88 km/h	Some branches break off trees, and some small trees blow over. Construction/temporary signs and barricades blow over.
		47–54 mph	
10	STORM, WHOLE GALE	89 à 102 km/h	Trees are broken off or uprooted, saplings bent and deformed. Poorly attached asphalt shingles and shingles in poor condition peel off roofs.
		55–63 mph	
11	VIOLENT STORM	103 à 117 km/h	Widespread damage to vegetation. Many roofing surfaces are damaged; asphalt tiles that have curled up and/or fractured due to age may break away completely.
		64–72 mph	
12	HURRICANE FORCE	118 km/h +	Very widespread damage to vegetation. Some windows may break; mobile homes and poorly constructed sheds and barns are damaged. Debris may be hurled about.
		≥ 73 mph	

Created in 1805 by British Admiral Francis Beaufort (1774-1857), the Beaufort scale is an empirical measurement scale, with 13 degrees (0 to 12), of the average wind speed over a ten minutes period.

The Beaufort scale includes enough specific criteria to quantify the average wind speed and allows the dissemination of reliable information universally understood.