

THE BEAUFORT SCALE

MANY years ago, before modern weather instruments were used, a man named Sir Francis Beaufort made up a scale to describe the force of winds

by the way they acted over land and sea. Here is a form of this scale. How many of these wind effects have you felt? Scale numbers indicate wind strength.

NOTICEABLE EFFECT OF WIND At Sea

Waves so high that ships are hidden in the troughs. Sea covered with streaking foam. Air filled with spray.

Devastation.

Sea is mirror-smooth.

Small wavelets like scales, but no foam crests.

NOTICEABLE EFFECT OF WIND On Land

Damage is widespread. Experienced round the edge of hurricanes and tornadoes.

Devastation.

Smoke rises vertically.

Direction shown by smoke drift, but not by vanes.

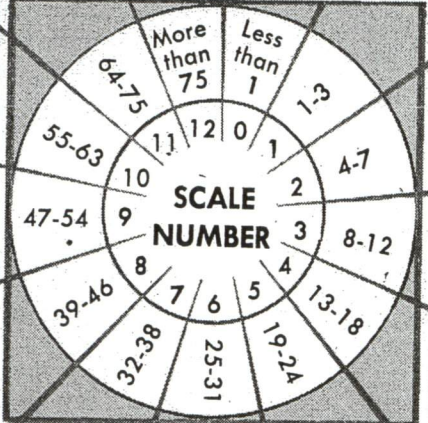
High waves with long overhanging crests. Great foam patches.

Trees uprooted. Considerable structural damage.

WIND NAME

Storm Hurricane Calm Light Air

WIND SPEED MILES PER HOUR



Waves increase visibly. Foam is blown in dense streaks.

Slight structural damage occurs. Chimney pots removed.

Wind felt on face, leaves rustle; wind vane moves.

Waves are short and more pronounced.

Waves increase visibly. Foam is blown in dense streaks.

Twigs break off. Progress generally impeded.

Leaves and twigs in motion. Wind extends a light flag.

Crests begin to break. Foam has glassy appearance, not as yet white.

Whole trees in motion.

Large branches begin to move. Telephone wires whistle.

Small trees in leaf begin to sway.

Raises dust and loose pages and moves small branches.

Waves are longer. Many whitecaps.

Sea heaps up. Foam begins to blow in streaks.

Larger waves form. Foaming crests more extensive.

Waves are more pronounced. White foaming crests seen everywhere.