



Natural Wind Speed Indicators

Use the chart below to determine how fast the wind is blowing.

Speed (mph)	Term	Effects of Wind
0-1	Calm	No wind; smoke rises straight up
1-3	Light Air	Smoke moves sideways a little
4-7	Light Breeze	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; wind vanes move
8-12	Gentle Breeze	Leaves & twigs in constant motion; wind moves small flags
13-18	Moderate Breeze	Wind raises dust and loose paper; small branches move
19-24	Fresh Breeze	Small trees begin to sway; very small waves on lakes
25-31	Strong Breeze	Large branches in motion; telephone wires whistling
32-38	Moderate Gale	Whole trees in are motion; hard to walk against wind
39-46	Fresh Gale	Wind breaks twigs off trees; cannot walk in wind
47-54	Strong Gale	Wind damages some houses; awnings blown away
55-63	Whole gale	Rarely experienced; trees uprooted; major damage to homes
64-72	Storm	Very rare in mountains; lots of damage
73+	Hurricane	Very rare; lots of damage

