

WIND FORCE DEFINITIONS

Trike pilots are very aware of and very dependent on the wind. To help you make a flying decision, you may like to refer to the following table which defines the words used to describe wind strength. The table is derived from the Beaufort Wind Scale and is the official scale as used by the Bureau of Meteorology.

**Wind speeds are given as the equivalent speed at a standard height
of 10 metres above open, flat ground.**

Wind	Knots	Description on Land	Description at Sea
CALM	0	Smoke rises vertically.	Sea like a mirror.
LIGHT	0-10	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; ordinary vanes moved by wind.	Small waveless ripples formed but do not break; A glassy appearance maintained.
MODERATE	11-16	Raises dust and loose paper; small branches are moved.	Small waves - becoming longer; fairly frequent white horses.
FRESH	17-21	Small trees in leaf begin to sway; crested wavelets form on inland water.	Moderate waves, taking a more pronounced long form; many white horses are formed - a chance of some spray.
STRONG	22-27	Large branches in motion; whistling heard in overhead wires; umbrellas used with difficulty.	Large waves begin to form; the white foam crests are more extensive with probably some spray.
	28-33	Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt when walking against the wind.	Sea heaps up and white foam from breaking waves begins to be blown in streaks along the direction of wind.
GALE	34-40	Twigs break off trees; progress generally impeded.	Moderately high waves of greater length; edges of crests begin to break into spin drift; foam is blown in well-marked streaks along the direction of the wind.
	41-47	Slight structural damage occurs — roofing dislodged; larger branches break off.	High waves; dense streaks of foam; crests of waves begin to topple, tumble and roll over; spray may affect visibility.
STORM	48-55	Seldom experienced inland; trees uprooted; considerable structural damage.	Very high waves with long overhanging crests; the resulting foam in great patches is blown in dense white streaks; the surface of the sea takes on a white appearance; the tumbling of the sea becomes heavy with visibility affected.
	56 plus	Very rarely experienced — widespread damage.	Exceptionally high waves; small and medium sized ships occasionally lost from view behind waves; the sea is completely covered with long, white patches of foam; the edges of wave crests are blown into froth.

GUST: A gust is any sudden increase of wind of short duration, usually a few seconds.

SQUALL: A squall comprises a rather sudden increase of the mean wind speed which lasts for several minutes at least before the mean wind returns to near its previous value. A squall may include many gusts.