

7 Facts About Wind

1. Wind speed is measured by an anemometer. The cups spin as the wind blows and the speed is measured in miles per hour or kilometers per hour.

2. The Beaufort Scale was developed in 1805 by Sir Francis Beaufort of the British Navy. The scale describes wind speed in units of force and is used mostly for sea winds.

0 = Calm	1 = light air	2 = light breeze
3 = gentle breeze	4 = moderate breeze	5 = fresh breeze
6 = strong breeze	7 = near gale	8 = gale
9 = strong gale	10 = storm	11 = violent storm
12 = hurricane		

3. The most powerful winds on earth are tornado winds. Tornado winds can spin at 300 miles per hour and can move across the ground at 70 miles per hour. Tornado wind strength is measured on the Enhanced Fujita Scale.

EF0 = Light Damage	EF1 = Moderate Damage
EF2 = Considerable Damage	EF3 = Severe Damage
EF4 = Devastating Damage	EF5 = Incredible Damage

4. Hurricanes are giant storms that begin over tropical seas. Winds can blow from 74 miles per hour to over 150 miles per hour. Hurricanes are categorized on the Saffir-Simpson Scale.

1 = Minimal (74-95 mph)	2 = Moderate (96-110 mph)
3 = Extensive (111-129 mph)	4 = Extreme (130-156 mph)
5 = Catastrophic (157+ mph)	

5. A haboob is a severe dust storm that creates a thick wall of dust. The storm can be over 3000 feet high and can travel at 60 miles per hour.

6. Wind is caused by uneven heating of the earth's surface. Warm air weighs less than cold air and rises as cool air falls, causing wind to blow.

7. Wind blows in all directions. It can even blow down. Downburts typically occur near large thunderstorms. They are sometimes called derechos.