Visual Estimate of Surface Windspeed

Terms	Wind Speed	Visual Indicator
Calm	<1 mph	Calm, smoke rises vertically
Very Light Breeze	1-3 mph	Deciduous leaves are in constant motion, small branches sway, tall grasses and weeds sway and bend with wind
Light Breeze	4-7 mph	Trees of pole size in the open sway gently, wind felt on face, leaves rustle, loose scraps of paper move, small flags flutter
Light Wind	8-12 mph	Leaves, small twigs in constant motion, tops of trees in dense stands sway, light flags extended
Windy	13-18 mph	Pole-sized trees in open sway vigorously, whole trees in dense stands sway, dust raised on road
Very Windy	19-24 mph	Branchlets are broken from trees, resistance or difficulty is felt when walking against wind
Strong Wind	25-31 mph	Tree damage in exposed tops and branches increases, progress when walking against wind impeded
Very Strong Wind	32-39 mph	Severe damage to treetops, very difficult to walk against the wind
Slightly Damaging Wind	39-46 mph	Surfaced strong Santa Ana, intense stress on all exposed objects, vegetation, buildings, tree canopy offers no protection
Dangerous Wind	47+ mph	Structural damage occurs, slate blown from roofs

Source: Adapted from Beaufort Wind Scale