



Nassau County Skywarn - About Wind

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Repeater Information
Primary 146.805(-)
Secondary 147.135(+)
136.5 PL for both

If you wish to include wind reports in your observations, it is important that you quantify your readings as accurately as possible. Most of us do not own anemometers, but that does not mean we cannot provide useful reports. This quick how-to will give you the techniques to judge both wind speed and direction.

Remember- When performing any spotting activities, please keep safety as your top priority.

Judging Wind Direction

Knowing the direction of the wind is just as important as knowing the velocity.

Finding North: The first thing you must do, is get an idea of which way north is. If you do not have a compass and are not familiar with where you are there are two simple methods. First, you can look for the green side of the tree trunks. Algae and moss typically grow on the north face of a tree trunk.

The other is that In the morning the sun is to the east, so if you are facing north, the sun will be to your right. In the afternoon, the sun will be to your left.

Important: Remember that wind direction is stated as the direction the wind is coming from.

Here are some simple ways to judge the direction of the wind.

Visual cues: Flags, rising smoke and blowing debris such as leaves or paper can give you a good hint as to wind direction. Take the opposite of the direction of motion as the reading.

Drop a handful of grass: Extending your arm away from your body, drop a handful of grass. Observe where it lands. Wind direction is the opposite of where the grass ended up.

The wet finger: Yes, this is not very accurate, but in a pinch it can work. Wet your index finger and hold it up above shoulder level. The side that feels coldest is the direction the wind is coming from.

Judging Wind Speed

This chart provides useful clues for estimating wind speed without an anemometer.

The Beaufort Scale				
Wind	Symbol	Speed(mph)	Force #	Effect
calm		> 1	0	smoke rises vertically
light air		1-3	1	smoke drifts slightly
light breeze		4-7	2	leaves rustle; wind vane moves
gentle breeze		8-12	3	leaves-constant motion light flag extended
moderate breeze		13-18	4	raises dust and papers; small branches stir
fresh breeze		19-24	5	small trees sway
strong breeze		25-31	6	large branches move; use of umbrella difficult
moderate gale		32-38	7	whole trees in motion
fresh gale		39-46	8	twigs broken off trees; difficult to drive a car
strong gale		47-54	9	slight structure damage occurs
whole gale		55-63	10	trees uprooted; severe structural damage
storm		64-73	11	widespread damage
hurricane		above 75	12	devastation

The Beaufort Scale has unofficially been extended to Force 17 to describe tropical storms exceeding 126 miles per hour

Please join us Sunday evenings on the 146.805 repeater for our weekly training net at 19:45 local or at the conclusion of the VHF NTS net.