

SEA BREEZE:

A coastal local wind that blows from the ocean onto the land.

SHOWER:

Intermittent precipitation from a cumuliform cloud, usually of short duration but often heavy.

TEMPERATURE:

The degree of hotness or coldness of air.

THERMOMETER:

An instrument used to measure temperature.

THUNDER:

The sound due to rapidly expanding gases along the channel of a lightning discharge.

THUNDERSTORM:

A local storm produced by a cumulonimbus cloud always accompanied by lightning and thunder.

TORNADO:

An intense, rotating column of air that protrudes from a cumulonimbus cloud in the shape of a funnel or a rope whose circulation is present on the ground.

TROPICAL DISTURBANCE:

An organized mass of thunderstorm with slight cyclonic wind circulation of less than 20 knots.

TROPICAL DEPRESSION:

A mass of thunderstorm and clouds generally with a cyclonic wind circulation of between 20 and 34 knots.

TROPICAL WAVE:

A migratory wave-like disturbance in the tropical easterlies. They usually intensify to tropical storms.

TROPICAL STORM:

An organized thunderstorm with a cyclonic wind direction between 35 and 64 knots

TROUGH:

An elongated area of relatively low atmospheric pressure; the opposite of a ridge.

VISIBILITY:

The greatest distance an observer can see and identify prominent objects.

WEATHER:

The condition or present state of the atmosphere at any particular time and place.

WIND:

Air in horizontal motion relative to the earth's surface.

WIND DIRECTION:

The direction from which the wind is blowing.

WIND SOCK:

A tapered fabric shaped like a cone that indicates wind direction by pointing away from the wind.

WIND SHEAR:

The rate of change of wind speed or wind direction over a given distance.

WIND VANE:

An instrument used to indicate wind direction.

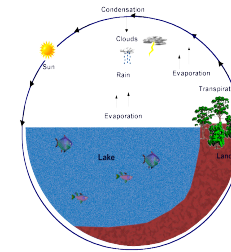
WINDWARD SIDE:

The side of an object facing into the wind.



**Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs,
Traffic & Telecommunications**

Meteorological Definitions



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**Protecting lives and property
against natural hazards**

AIR PRESSURE:

The force exerted by a mass of air above an area.

AIR TEMPERATURE:

The degree of hotness or coldness of the air.

ANEMOMETER:

An instrument used to measure wind speed.

ATMOSPHERE:

The envelope of gases that surround a planet and are held by the planet's gravitational attraction.

BAROMETER:

An instrument that measures atmospheric pressure.

CEILING:

The height of the lowest layer of clouds.

CLIMATE:

The accumulation of daily and seasonal weather events averaged over a long period of time, normally 30 years. It also includes the extremes of weather and their frequencies.

CLOUDS:

Visible aggregate of tiny water droplets and or ice crystals in suspension

COLD FRONT:

A transition zone where a cold air mass advances and replaces a warm air mass.

DEW:

Water that has condensed onto objects near the ground when their temperature have fallen below the dew point of the surface air.

DEW POINT:

The temperature to which air must be cooled for saturation to take place.

DRIZZLE:

Small water drops between 0.2 and 0.5 mm in diameter that fall slowly and reduce visibility more than light rain.

EL NIÑO:

An extensive ocean warming that begins near the coast of Peru.

EYE:

A region in the center of a hurricane (tropical storm) where the winds are light and skies are clear to partly cloudy.

EYE WALL:

A wall of dense thunderstorms that surrounds the eye of a hurricane.

FLASH FLOOD:

A flood that rises and falls quite rapidly with little or no advanced warning.

FOG:

A cloud of suspended water vapor in the form of water droplets or ice crystals with its base at the earth's surface.

FRONT:

The transition zone between two distinct air masses.

HAIL STONES:

Transparent or partially opaque particles of ice that range in size from that of a pea to that of a gulf ball or even larger.

HAZE:

Fine wet or dry dust or salt particles dispersed through a portion of the atmosphere.

HUMIDITY:

The amount of moisture or water vapor present.

HURRICANE:

A severe tropical cyclone having winds in excess of 64 knots.

JET STREAM:

Relatively strong winds concentrated within a narrow band of the atmosphere.

LEEWARD SIDE:

The side of an object facing away from the wind.

LIGHTNING:

A visible electrical discharge produced by thunderstorms.

METEOROLOGY:

The study of the atmosphere and atmospheric phenomena as well as the atmosphere's interaction with the earth's surface, oceans and life in general.

MIST:

Thin fog.

OZONE:

An almost colorless gaseous form of oxygen with an odor similar to weak chlorine.

PRECIPITATION:

Any form of water particles-liquid or solid.

RAIN:

Precipitation in the form of liquid water drops that have a diameter greater than drizzle.

RAIN GAUGE:

An instrument used to measure rainfall.

RAINBOW:

An arc of concentric colored bands that span a section of the sky when rain is present and the sun is positioned at the observer's back.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY:*The ratio of the amount of water vapor in the air compared to the amount required for saturation.*