

## AQEC MEMORANDUM 2014-024

### READING WIND CONDITIONS



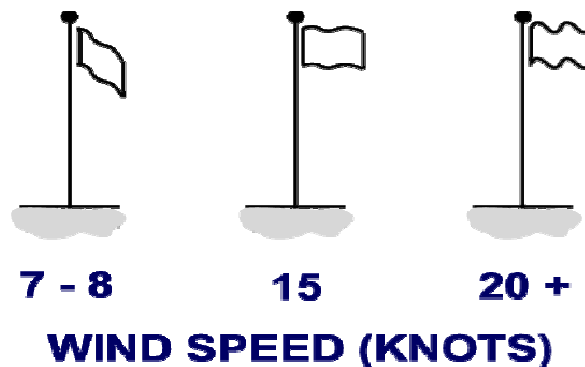
#### QUESTION:

*“Is there a way to get an approximate wind speed by viewing flags?”*

#### AQEC/SNC RESPONSE:

*Wind direction is apparent by reading the direction from which a flag is flying as long as you have an approximate compass bearing from that direction. It takes a bit more practice to develop wind speed by the manner in which a flag is flying. The diagram below provides a visual observation for wind speed.*

*The goal when needing to determine wind direction and wind speed is to look for a nearby flag for a visual of what the flag is doing and how you might use it for the task you are trying to accomplish (anchoring, docking, towing, handling sea state, etc.).*



*The Auxiliary Weather Course is responsible for this diagram and the following statement regarding cautious use of using flags as a wind indicator.*

*“Be aware that buildings and trees protecting a flag can affect wind direction and speed. Wind speed offshore is probably greater than what is being shown on land.”*

Warren D. Edman  
AQEC/SNC  
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*From Quotations with Character by W. David Edman*

*“Teaching mariners about risk assessment is to explain their actions may affect their life expectancy.”*