

The hurricane

When the wind velocity exceeds 33 metres per second, the wind classification tells us, we experience a hurricane. This day in mid-February the town was hit by gusts of wind of a strength as a hurricane.

From my house at the top of the mountain, I have a view to the almost blue sky and the clear mountain peaks. But down in the town the gusts of wind get the snow to drift.

The wind is so violent that it often must be whiteout for the road-users. Whiteout is a weather phenomenon in which the drifting snow makes it impossible to distinguish the elements of the landscape from each other. The horizon disappears and you completely lose the orientation ability.

Everyone seems to have taken shelter. People, cars, and even the tough sea-going trawler have returned and taken

shelter in the harbour of Qaqortoq.

Further out on the outermost islands at the coast, the gust of winds attain more than 45 metres per second.

Saturday morning is usually time for shopping, but only few cars and people are present on the roads. The gusts of wind may be so violent that they are able to twitch off a car door. It is important to place the car in the direction of wind, so the doors are squeezed inward when you get in and out of the car. It demands strength to hold on a car door in this weather.

We are used to these storms with the gusts of hurricane strength. The town goes a little stuck, but no extraordinary measures are made with additional emergency preparedness. Do not worry, or *ajornavianngilaq*, as it is named in Greenlandic.



Qaqortoq, South Greenland, February 2017