

Drifting snow in a hurricane

It is time to get home. Soon, the traffic will come to a standstill. People seek shelter in their houses.

This time, the weather forecast had predicted the hurricane. The school sent the pupils home and employees begin leaving workplaces. The police issued a warning: "Avoid non-essential travel!" Heavy snowfall and heavy blowing snow, and the storm will have the strength of a hurricane in the gusts.

The bulldozers have started clearing away snow. Immediately after they have cleaned a street for snow, the street starts to get blocked again. But the snow clearing is as effective, as it can be. This is a necessity if we choose to live in the Arctic climate. The snow clearing is expensive. The annual snow removal costs 1.4 million kroner in the town, Qaqortoq in South Greenland.

Only a few people are present, walking in the streets. They are on their way home. The cold wind and the snow cut the uncovered faces. Often it can be difficult to see where you are walking. It is strange to imagine that this cold storm was created by a former tropical hurricane close to the terrestrial equator.

The storm gets worse for real. Some wind gusts are so violent, that even the most solid houses vibrate. The local weather station at the heliport reports on gusts above 40 m/s. It is well above the limit of a hurricane. A storm is defined as a hurricane when the wind comes over 32.6 m/s.

The gust of wind gets plates on the dining table to move. The cold creeps in everywhere, but fortunately only a few people must leave their homes in this violent weather.



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