

Halachos of Daily Living

Is there a *bracha* that
should be recited on a hurricane?

Yes. Shulchan Aruch (OC 227:1) writes one may recite
either *Oseh Maasay Bereishis* or *Shekocho Ugvuroso Molay Olom* for
thunder, lightning or “great winds that blow with
rage”. Common practice is to recite *Oseh
Maasay Bereishis* for lightning (this *bracha* speaks of the wonders of
creation), and *Shekocho Ugvuroso Molay Olom* for
thunder (this *bracha* refers to the awesome power of *Hashem*) [Mishna
Berura 227:5]. The

Mishna Berura also writes that the blessing of *Shekocho Ugvuroso Molay
Olom* - “That His power and strength fills the world” is only
said on a wind that howls with such intensity that it can be heard across the
world (until the horizon) similar to thunder. Since we are not proficient in
delineating what exactly is a “wind that blows with rage”, we do not recite
this blessing. Instead, we recite the blessing of *Oseh Maasay
Bereishis*. Although a
hurricane would seemingly qualify as “a wind that blows with rage” the
custom
is to avoid the issue by always reciting *Oseh Maasay Bereishis* which can be
recited on any
dangerous gust of wind.