



For Northeast Kansas  
as of 1:30 p.m. CST  
Thursday, January 7, 2010

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### Updates from around Kansas & neighboring states

**Missouri:** As of 12:36 p.m., Missouri DOT/KC reports that cold temperatures...blowing snow makes for dangerous driving! Use the Traveler Information Map for updates! <http://tinyurl.com/dlcdsn>

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### Current National Weather Service Forecast

#### **Northeast Kansas, including Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area – UPDATED!**

**This Afternoon:** Areas of blowing snow and a chance of flurries. Mostly cloudy and cold, with a high near 7. Wind chill values between -12 and -17. Blustery, with a northwest wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10%.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around -7. Wind chill values between -19 and -26. Blustery, with a northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Friday:** Mostly sunny and cold, with a high near 2. Wind chill values between -16 and -26. Northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around -12. Wind chill values between -18 and -23. North wind around 5 mph.

### National Weather Service Winter Weather Advisory & Wind Chill Warning

REPUBLIC-WASHINGTON-CLOUD-CLAY-RILEY-POTTAWATOMIE-OTTAWA-DICKINSON-GEARY-MORRIS-WABAUNSEE-SHAWNEE-LYON-OSAGE-FRANKLIN-COFFEY-ANDERSON-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...CONCORDIA...CLAY CENTER...MANHATTAN...ABILENE...JUNCTION CITY...TOPEKA...EMPORIA...OTTAWA

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN TOPEKA HAS ISSUED A WIND CHILL WARNING WHICH IS IN EFFECT FROM THURSDAY EVENING THROUGH SATURDAY MORNING.

A WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 PM CST THURSDAY.

Wind...sustained winds of 20 to 30 mph will be common today...with gusts as high as 35 mph possible. This will lead to blowing and drifting of the fallen snow. Winds will slacken to 10 to 20 mph late tonight through Friday.

Wind chills...strong winds and frigid temperatures will produce wind chills of 15 to 35 degrees below zero today through Saturday morning.

Impacts...blowing and drifting snow will result in reduced visibilities and may cause some roads to drift shut. The extreme wind chills will be dangerous for anyone facing more than a few minutes of exposure to the cold.

Precautionary/preparedness actions...conditions can deteriorate rapidly in winter weather situations...slow down and allow extra time when traveling. Practice your winter safety rules...keep an extra flashlight...food...and water in your car in case of an emergency.

## **Greater Kansas City Metro Area – UPDATED!**

**This Afternoon:** Widespread blowing snow and a chance of flurries. Mostly cloudy and cold, with a high near 8. Wind chill values between -15 and -20. Blustery, with a northwest wind around 22 mph, with gusts as high as 31 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10%.

**Tonight:** Areas of blowing snow and scattered flurries. Mostly cloudy, with a low around -5. Wind chill values between -19 and -24. Blustery, with a northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 29 mph.

**Friday:** Partly sunny and cold, with a high near 1. Wind chill values between -15 and -25. Northwest wind between 8 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.

## **National Weather Service Winter Weather Advisory & Wind Chill Warning – UPDATED!**

MIAMI-LINN KS-LEAVENWORTH-WYANDOTTE-JOHNSON KS-PLATTE-CLAY-RAY-JACKSON-LAFAYETTE-CASS-JOHNSON MO-BATES-HENRY-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...PAOLA...MOUND CITY...LEAVENWORTH...OVERLAND PARK...OLATHE...PARKVILLE...PLATTE CITY...WESTON...LIBERTY...EXCELSIOR SPRINGS...RICHMOND...KANSAS CITY...INDEPENDENCE...LEXINGTON...CONCORDIA...RAYMORE...HARRISONVILLE...PLEASANT HILL...WARRENSBURG...BUTLER...RICH HILL...CLINTON

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN KANSAS CITY/PLEASANT HILL HAS ISSUED A WIND CHILL WARNING...WHICH IS IN EFFECT FROM 6 PM THIS EVENING TO NOON CST SATURDAY.

THE WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY FOR BLOWING SNOW IS IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 PM CST THIS EVENING.

Short term trends...partly sunny skies are expected to give way to periods of cloud cover through the afternoon hours. Occasional light snow or flurries will be possible throughout the daytime hours. Little snow accumulation is expected.

Wind and visibility...strong northwest winds gusting up to 35 mph will create significant blowing and drifting of snow with reduced visibilities. This will be especially true in open rural areas where visibilities could drop down to less than a mile. The drifting of snow across the roads will add to the hazardous driving conditions. This will be especially true on north-south oriented roadways.

Dangerously cold wind chills will overspread the region this afternoon as temperatures fall through the single digits. Wind chill values of 10 to 20 below zero will become widespread this afternoon...and will sink to between 20 and 30 below tonight. These brutally cold temperatures will continue to result in dangerously cold wind chill values through Saturday morning. This will create a potentially life threatening situation for anyone caught outdoors and unprotected for more than a few minutes.

Precautionary/preparedness actions... A winter storm warning for snow and blowing snow means severe winter weather conditions are expected or occurring. Significant amounts of snow and blowing snow are forecast that will make travel dangerous. Only travel in an emergency. If you must travel...keep an extra flashlight...food...and water in your vehicle in case of an emergency.

## **Current Road Conditions – UPDATED!**

Snow falling is mainly light flurries with little to no accumulation expected. Roadways, including mainline lanes, ramp areas, bridges and overpasses, may be slick due to the snowpacked/icy conditions, continued drifting snow and extremely cold single digit temperatures, so drivers need to use caution, take it slow and allow for extra time during their early morning commutes.

Road conditions currently range from partly to completely snowpacked/icy and/or drifting throughout all of northeast Kansas. Many of the interstate highways may have one or two fairly clear driving lanes with spots snowpacked, but the passing lanes are mostly snowpacked. Drifting on the roadways continues to occur throughout northeast Kansas and will do during the rest of the day, due to gusting winds of up to 35 mph. Some secondary roadways are starting to drift closed, please see below for a current list of road closures in northeast Kansas.

KDOT crews will continue to focus on plowing and will spot treat only (salt/sand mixture) as needed throughout the daytime hours today. So far conditions are not favorable for significant treating on the roadways, plowing is the main option for dealing with the continued drifting. *See the chart below for current roadway conditions for individual northeast Kansas counties.*

**Driver Safety Tips**

Please remind DRIVERS as they travel about to:

1. Take it SLOW!
2. Allow plenty of extra drive time.
3. Watch for icy/slick spots on the roadway; don't assume that if the pavement looks clear, that it is.
4. Buckle up every passenger, every time.
5. If they get stranded, to stay IN their vehicle and call \*47 on a state highway/interstate route (any highway that begins with I-, K-, and US-), \*KTA on the Kansas Turnpike, or #911 at anytime.

*For travel throughout the overnight and into the early morning hours tomorrow, drivers should use caution, allow plenty of driving time, buckle up (every passenger, every time) and be sure to turn on their headlights, and turn off their cruise control. Drivers should also provide for a safe distance or cushion between themselves and vehicles ahead of them.*

*We also want to remind drivers to stay a safe distance back from KDOT snow plows, and if drivers should pass the snow plows, to be extra careful and allow plenty of room as the trucks do travel slower than surrounding traffic.*

COUNTY/METRO AREA	CURRENT OVERALL ROAD CONDITIONS	New Update Yes/No
KC Metro Area (Johnson/Leavenworth/Wyandotte Counties)	Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County)	Drifting to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Atchison County	Drifting to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Brown County	Drifting to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Doniphan County	Drifting to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Douglas County	Drifting to Completely Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Jackson County	Partly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Jefferson County	Drifting	YES
Lyon County	Partly to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Marshall County	Drifting	YES
Nemaha County	Drifting to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Osage County	Drifting to Completely Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Pottawatomie County	Partly to Completely Snowpacked/Ice	No
Riley County	Spots to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Wabaunsee County	Drifting	No

## Current Road Closures for Northeast Kansas

**NEW! K-87 in Marshall County is NOW CLOSED to all traffic from the Village of Vilets to the US-36 junction as of 10:40 a.m. Thursday, January 7, due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.**

**K-99 in Marshall County is NOW CLOSED to all traffic from the City of Beattie to the Kansas/Nebraska state line as of 7:45 a.m., Thursday, January 7, due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.**

## Updated Road Conditions (via phone or online 24/7)

Updated Kansas road conditions are at your fingertips. **KanDrive** is the new online travel info portal, [www.KanDrive.org](http://www.KanDrive.org), that displays information from KDOT's traveler information technology, including highway cameras, dynamic message signs, traffic management centers and 511 phone, online and mobile (<http://511mm.ksdot.org>). Snapshots from more than 30 closed-circuit cameras along I-70 between Topeka and Colorado and along other highways in the state, as well as camera views from the KC Scout system are available through the new online site, so users can see the roadway conditions.

Travelers can also obtain updated road conditions simply by calling 511 from any phone (landline or cellular), or by clicking on the following link: <http://511.ksdot.org>, drivers can obtain updated all of Kansas road conditions at **anytime, day or night.**

Additional weather-related information can be found online at <http://www.ksdot.org/offTransInfo/511Info/511traffictavel.asp>. This KDOT web site link includes informational brochures on 511 Winter Storm Survival, Managing Snow and Ice on Kansas Highways, and Safe Winter Driving Tips. Drivers... "If the weather is bad, remember with ICE AND SNOW, Take it Slow, or just don't go."

### **Media Outlets**

For more information and/or to schedule an interview (live/pre-recorded), you can reach me 24/7 on my cell phone at (785) 640-9340 (early morning/overnight, evenings, and weekends included).

Thanks for your continued support! Be safe, don't text & drive. Know B4 U Go!

**Kimberly K. Qualls**  
**NE Kansas Public Affairs Manager**  
**Kansas Dept. of Transportation**

121 SW 21st Street  
Topeka, KS 66612  
P: (785) 296-3881  
C: (785) 640-9340  
[kqualls@ksdot.org](mailto:kqualls@ksdot.org)  
[www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org)  
[www.kandrive.org](http://www.kandrive.org)

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