



**For Northeast Kansas
as of 5:30 a.m. CST
Thursday, January 20, 2011
(UPDATED)**

Current Weather Forecast

Northeast Kansas, including Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area

Today: Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 22. Wind chill values between -3 and 7. North wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 4. Wind chill values between -10 and zero. Calm wind becoming south between 5 and 10 mph.

There are no active winter weather advisories/watches/warnings at this time.

Greater Kansas City Metro Area

Today: A slight chance of light snow before noon. Cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 19. North northwest wind around 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 3. North northwest wind between 5 and 8 mph becoming calm.

Winter Storm Warning

ATCHISON KS-MIAMI-DONIPHAN-LEAVENWORTH-WYANDOTTE-JOHNSON KS-BUCHANAN-CLINTON-CALDWELL-PLATTE-CLAY-RAY-JACKSON-CASS-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...ATCHISON...PAOLA...TROY...LEAVENWORTH...OVERLAND PARK...OLATHE...ST. JOSEPH...PLATTSBURG...HAMILTON...POLO...PARKVILLE...PLATTE CITY...WESTON...LIBERTY...EXCELSIOR SPRINGS...RICHMOND...KANSAS CITY...INDEPENDENCE...RAYMORE...HARRISONVILLE...PLEASANT HILL

A WINTER STORM WARNING FOR HEAVY SNOW REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 AM CST THURSDAY.

* LOCATIONS IMPACTED BY THIS WARNING INCLUDE EASTERN KANSAS...AS WELL AS PORTIONS OF NORTHWESTERN AND WEST CENTRAL MISSOURI. THIS INCLUDES THE ENTIRE KANSAS CITY METROPOLITAN AREA. OTHER CITIES IMPACTED INCLUDE ATCHISON...ST. JOSEPH AND LEAVENWORTH.

* SHORT TERM FORECAST...THE SNOW WILL CONTINUE TO GRADUALLY DIMINISH THROUGH THE EARLY MORNING HOURS...WITH SIGNIFICANT ACCUMULATIONS COMING TO AND END AROUND DAYBREAK.

* ADDITIONAL ACCUMULATIONS EARLY THIS MORNING ARE EXPECTED TO BE AROUND 1 INCH.

* IMPACTS...THE HEAVY SNOWFALL WILL RESULT IN LONG DELAYS ON BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ROUTES...IF DESTINATIONS CAN BE REACHED AT ALL. TRAVELERS SHOULD AVOID TRAVEL IF AT ALL POSSIBLE AND PREPARE ALTERNATIVE PLANS.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...A WINTER STORM WARNING MEANS SIGNIFICANT SNOW ACCUMULATIONS ARE EXPECTED THAT WILL GREATLY IMPACT TRAVEL. MOTORISTS SHOULD REMAIN ALERT TO CHANGING WEATHER CONDITIONS...AND TAKE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS IF TRAVEL IS NECESSARY. CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE LATEST FORECASTS.

Current Road Conditions

All northeast Kansas counties are impacted by the current winter snow storm. See the chart below for current roadway conditions for individual northeast Kansas counties. Roadway conditions across all of northeast Kansas continue to be completely snowpacked/icy.

The snow has now stopped falling, so KDOT crews will continue to plow and they have now begun treating with salt and/or salt /sand mixture for the morning commute. Roadway conditions will remain snowpacked during the early morning commute. There is pavement showing on some mainline driving lanes, though most passing lanes are still snowpacked. Extra caution should be used at ramp areas as well due to the snowpacked conditions.

KDOT nighttime crews will switch out with daytime crews at around 8 a.m. this morning and head home for some much needed rest.

As drivers head out this morning, they need to buckle up, TAKE IT SLOW, use caution, allow extra time and drive for the current roadway conditions for their morning commutes.

COUNTY/METRO AREA	CURRENT ROAD CONDITION
KC Metro Area (Johnson/Leavenworth/Wyandotte Counties)	Mostly to Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County)	Mostly to Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Atchison County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Brown County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Doniphan County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Douglas County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Jackson County	Mostly Snowpacked/Icy
Jefferson County	Mostly Snowpacked/Icy
Lyon County	Mostly Snowpacked/Icy
Marshall County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Nemaha County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Osage County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Pottawatomie County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Riley County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Wabaunsee County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy

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 during winter storms, 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.

Current Road Closures for Northeast Kansas

No closed roads to report at this time.

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, 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!

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