



For Northeast Kansas
4:30 p.m. CST
Thursday, January 7, 2010

Updates from around Kansas & neighboring states

Lawrence, KS: As of 4:09 p.m. today, the City of Lawrence reports that clearing underway in residential areas; LPRD announces cancellations: <http://www.lawrenceks.org/lists/archive.php?x=1672>

Overland Park, KS: As of 4:25 p.m. today, the City of Overland Park reports that Overland Park crews are about 50 percent done with residential streets, expect to have all done Friday morning.

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>

Oklahoma: As of 4:09 p.m., Oklahoma DOT reports as the sun melts snow & ice and night falls, watch for icy patches on the roads, bridges & overpasses KNOW B4 U GO! <http://ow.ly/TMc4>

Current National Weather Service Forecast

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

Late Afternoon: Areas of blowing snow and a chance of flurries. Mostly cloudy and cold, with a high near 8. Wind chill values between -12 and -17. Blustery, with a northwest wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10%.

Tonight: Patchy blowing snow before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around -6. Wind chill values between -18 and -24. Blustery, with a north 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 -15 and -25. North wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around -15. Wind chill values between -21 and -26. 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 15 to 30 mph with gusts to around 35 mph will persist this afternoon...resulting in blowing and drifting of the snow on the ground. Wind speeds will diminish to 10 to 20 mph this evening...and decrease further on Friday.

Wind chills...the wind will combine with very cold temperatures to produce wind chills of 15 to 35 degrees below zero this afternoon 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 cause frostbite of exposed skin in a short period of time.

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!

Late Afternoon: Widespread blowing snow and a chance of flurries. Partly sunny and cold, with a high near 9. Wind chill values between -10 and -15. Blustery, with a northwest wind around 21 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10%.

Tonight: Widespread blowing snow before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around -3. Wind chill values between -16 and -23. Blustery, with a northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 29 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny and cold, with a high near 1. Wind chill values between -14 and -23. Northwest wind between 7 and 14 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around -11. Wind chill values between -15 and -20. Northwest wind between 3 and 7 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 9 PM CST THIS EVENING.

Wind and visibility...strong northwest winds gusting up to 35 mph will create significant blowing and drifting of snow with reduced visibilities as low as one half mile through Thursday evening. In more open rural areas...the drifting of snow across the roads will add to the hazardous driving conditions. This will be especially true on north-south oriented roadways. Drivers should be prepared for rapidly changing driving conditions.

Wind chills...dangerously cold wind chills will overspread the region tonight as temperatures fall through the single digits. Wind chill values have already fallen to 10 to 20 below zero Thursday afternoon. As colder air continues to move southward tonight...wind chill values will sink to between 20 and 30 by Friday morning.

Brutally cold temperatures will continue to result in dangerously cold wind chill values through Saturday morning. Daytime wind chill values will range from 10 to 20 below Friday and Saturday...however overnight wind chills Friday and Saturday night are expected to fall to 20 and 35 below zero. These prolonged conditions 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. Highways, 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 the evening and overnight hours. Drivers should be mindful of possible black ice conditions on the highways, even if the pavement surface appears to be dry, the roadway surface may be icy. *See the chart below for current roadway conditions for individual northeast Kansas counties.*

Road conditions have held steady most of the day and 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 snowpacked spots) but the passing lanes are mostly snowpacked. Drifting on the roadways continues to occur throughout northeast Kansas and will do so during the rest of the day and into the overnight hours, due to gusting winds of up to 35 mph. Some secondary roadways continue 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 evening and overnight hours. Conditions were not favorable for significant treating on the roadways today, due to cold temps and the gusting winds. Plowing is the main option for dealing with the continued drifting.

KDOT daytime crews will be heading home and the nighttime crews checking in between 7-8 pm this evening. The number of nighttime crews will vary by area and will be dependent on the current roadway conditions and/or those conditions expected overnight.

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
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KC Metro Area (Johnson/Leavenworth/Wyandotte Counties)	Partly (LV/WY) to Spots to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice (JO)	YES
Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County)	Drifting to Partly 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	No
Jackson County	Partly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Jefferson County	Drifting	No
Lyon County	Partly to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Marshall County	Drifting	No
Nemaha County	Drifting to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Osage County	Drifting to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Pottawatomie County	Partly to Completely Snowpacked/Ice	No
Riley County	Spots to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Wabaunsee County	Drifting	No

Current Road Closures for Northeast Kansas

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, 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/511traffictravel.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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