



For Northeast Kansas
as of 8:30 a.m. CST
Thursday, January 7, 2010

Updates from around Kansas & neighboring states

Wichita, KS: As of 4:30 a.m., Wichita KDOT reports winter weather advisory cancelled for Wichita but wind chill advisory til Friday noon. Highways snowpacked/icy north and east. Travel? No thanks.

Iowa: As of 7:15 a.m., Iowa DOT reports travel extremely hazardous in Iowa: AMES, Iowa - Jan. 7, 2010 ; 7:15 a.m. update - Travel is presently not advised... <http://bit.ly/6Btjny>

Missouri: As of 5:52 a.m. today, Missouri DOT reports that all other state routes in southwest Missouri should be considered covered at this time <http://bit.ly/514Q2T> US 71: Neosho south to Arkansas state line is clear. <http://bit.ly/5ChLWf>; US 71: Neosho north to Butler, Bates County, is a mix of partly covered to covered <http://bit.ly/83hcCB>

Nebraska: As of 7:37 a.m. today, Nebraska DOR reports several highways in eastern NE are blocked by blowing/drifted snow. Use 511/800-906-9069 -follow the prompts, or <http://www.511nebraska.org>

Oklahoma: As of 6:44 a.m. today, Oklahoma DOT reports STATEWIDE Hwys & interstates fairly clear, a few slick spots on bridges and overpasses. Take your time and use caution

Current National Weather Service Forecast

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

Today: Areas of blowing snow and a chance of flurries. Cloudy and cold, with a high near 6. Wind chill values between -15 and -20. 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 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 -16 and -26. Northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 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!

Today: Widespread blowing snow and a slight chance of snow. Mostly cloudy and cold, with a high near 7. Wind chill values between -13 and -18. Blustery, with a northwest wind between 20 and 22 mph, with gusts as high as 31 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

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...intermittent snow showers will affect northwest and west central Missouri today. However...little if any snow accumulation can be 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 today as temperatures fall through the single digits. Wind chill values of 15 to 20 below zero will become widespread during the day...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 so during the daytime hours, 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. If weather conditions are more favorable later in the morning, for example should the sun come out, crews may be able to more than spot treat the roadways. They will just have to wait and see what the conditions are later this morning. *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)	Partly Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Atchison County	Drifting to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Brown County	Drifting to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Doniphan County	Drifting to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Douglas County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	No
Jackson County	Partly Snowpacked/Ice	YES

Jefferson County	Partly Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Lyon County	Drifting to Completely Snowpacked/Ice	No
Marshall County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	No
Nemaha County	Drifting to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Osage County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	No
Pottawatomie County	Partly to Completely Snowpacked/Ice	No
Riley County	Spots to Completely Snowpacked/Ice	No
Wabaunsee County	Drifting	YES

Current Road Closures for Northeast Kansas

NEW! 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 was 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/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
www.ksdot.org
www.kandrive.org

Follow KDOT on Twitter (www.twitter.com):
Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area: @TopekaMetroKDOT
Kansas City Metro Area: @KansasCityKDOT
NE Kansas: @NEKansasKDOT

