



**For Northeast Kansas
as of 2:30 p.m. CST
Wednesday, December 23, 2009**

Current Weather Forecast:

Northeast Kansas, including Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area

This Afternoon: Rain and possibly a thunderstorm. High near 45. Northeast wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%.

Tonight: Rain and possibly a thunderstorm. Low around 29. North wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%.

Thursday: Snow and areas of blowing snow. High near 32. Windy, with a north wind between 20 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Winter Storm Watch

REPUBLIC-WASHINGTON-MARSHALL-NEMAHA-BROWN-CLOUD-CLAY-RILEY-POTTAWATOMIE-JACKSON-JEFFERSON-OTTAWA-DICKINSON-GEARY-MORRIS-WABAUNSEE-SHAWNEE-DOUGLAS-LYON-OSAGE-FRANKLIN-COFFEY-ANDERSON-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...MARYSVILLE...HIAWATHA...CONCORDIA...CLAY CENTER...MANHATTAN...ABILENE...JUNCTION CITY...TOPEKA...LAWRENCE...EMPORIA...OTTAWA.

Winter storm watch remains in effect from 6 pm CST Wednesday evening through Friday afternoon.

Total snow accumulations: snowfall accumulations of six or more inches will be possible by Friday afternoon along and east of a line from Marysville to Alma to Burlington. Heavy snow will move eastward through the day Thursday affecting all areas by Thursday afternoon.

Winds: northerly winds will increase to 25 to 35 mph with gusts as high as 45 mph on Thursday into Friday. This will result in reduced visibilities, with near blizzard conditions at times, as well as blowing and drifting snow.

Impacts: travel will become extremely dangerous and treacherous Thursday and Thursday through Friday morning. Additionally, any ice that accumulates on trees or power lines will be impacted by strong winds on Thursday into Friday.

Precautionary/preparedness actions: Remember, a winter storm watch means conditions are favorable .for hazardous winter weather in and close to the watch area. Any travel is strongly discouraged Thursday into Friday

Greater Kansas City Metro Area

This Afternoon: Occasional showers and possibly a thunderstorm. High near 50. East wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New rainfall amounts of less than a tenth of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Tonight: Occasional showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Low around 39. East wind 8 to 10 mph becoming north. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Thursday: Occasional rain, snow, and sleet. Temperature falling to around 27 by 5pm. Breezy, with a north northwest wind 9 to 12 mph increasing to between 20 and 23 mph. Winds could gust as high as 32 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New snow and sleet accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Winter Storm Watch

MIAMI-LINN KS-LEAVENWORTH-WYANOTTE-JOHNSON KS-WORTH-GENTRY-DE KALB-BUCHANAN-CLINTON-PLATTE-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...PAOLA...MOUND CITY...LEAVENWORTH...OVERLAND PARK...OLATHE...GRANT CITY...ALBANY...STANBERRY...CAMERON...ST. JOSEPH...PLATTSBURG...PARKVILLE...PLATTE CITY...WESTON

Winter storm watch remains in effect from Thursday morning through Friday afternoon.

Rain may change to freezing rain and sleet as early as Thursday morning. Then through the afternoon Thursday mixed winter precipitation will gradually switch to all snow.

Ice and sleet accumulations up to a tenth of an inch will be possible through Thursday afternoon. After changing to snow late Thursday afternoon total snowfall accumulations through Friday afternoon may be in the 5 to 10 inch range.

Strong northwest to west winds will develop Thursday afternoon through Friday with sustained winds possibly reaching 30 mph with a few higher gusts. This will create extensive blowing and drifting of snow and near blizzard conditions.

Travel may become extremely dangerous Thursday afternoon through Friday...with periods of heavy snow possible and significantly reduced visibilities. Persons planning on traveling for the holiday should either leave today...or make alternative plans.

Precautionary/preparedness actions...a winter storm watch means there is a potential for significant snow...sleet...or ice accumulations that may impact travel. Continue to monitor the latest forecasts.

Current Road Conditions

KDOT crews are ready and prepared to hit the roadways once the sleet/ice/snow begins. No pre-treating will take place in advance of the storm due to the rain, as it would simply wash any treatment product off the roadways.

Current roadways are primarily wet due to the rain for most northeast Kansas counties. *See the chart below for current roadway conditions for individual northeast Kansas counties.*

Please remind DRIVERS as they travel about during the next couple of days 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.

Driver Safety Tips

For travel throughout the evening and overnight hours, 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)	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County)	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Atchison County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Brown County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Doniphan County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Douglas County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Jackson County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Jefferson County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Lyon County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Marshall County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Nemaha County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Osage County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Pottawatomie County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Riley County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Wabaunsee County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No

Current Road Closures

No road closures to report at this time.

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

Updated Kansas road conditions are at your fingertips. New!! **KanDrive** is the new online 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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