



**For Northeast Kansas
as of 4:30 a.m. CST
Thursday, January 7, 2010**

Updates from around Kansas & neighboring states

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

Missouri: As of 4:30 a.m., Missouri DOT says that all state roads in MO are "covered" at this time - with the exception of far southeast corner of state. <http://bit.ly/6KB7xm>

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 -25. 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.

National Weather Service Winter Weather Advisory & Wind Chill Watch – UPDATED!

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 WATCH 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. Increasing clouds and cold, with a high near 7. Wind chill values between -12 and -18. Blustery, with a northwest wind between 15 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 Storm 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

A Winter Storm Warning for snow and blowing snow remains in effect until 6 pm CST Thursday.

Short term trends...little additional snowfall is expected. Scattered snow showers will end by 5 am.

Storm total snowfall...most areas will end up with 3 to 5 inches of snow with a few isolated locations picking up to 6 inches.

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 a half mile at times. 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.

Wind chills...dangerously cold wind chills will overspread the region today as temperatures fall through the single digits. Wind chill values of 10 to 20 below zero will become widespread during the day...and will be even colder Thursday night. 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 now is mainly light flurries with little to no accumulation. Roadways, including mainline lanes, ramp areas, bridges and overpasses, may be slick due to the snowpacked/icy conditions, 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 have not changed much overnight and currently range from partly to completely snowpacked/icy and/or drifting throughout all of northeast Kansas. Some of the interstate highways may have one fairly clear driving lane with spots snowpacked, but the passing lanes are mostly snowpacked. Drifting on the roadways continues to occur throughout northeast Kansas and will continue to do so during the daytime hours, due to the ongoing gusting winds.

KDOT crews will continue to mainly plow and spot treat only (salt/sand mixture) as needed throughout the daytime hours on Thursday. Nighttime crews will head home between 7-8 a.m. this morning and daytime crews will take over. *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/Icy	No
Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County)	Mostly to Completely Snowpacked/Icy	YES
Atchison County	Drifting	No
Brown County	Drifting	No
Doniphan County	Drifting	No
Douglas County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy	No
Jackson County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy	No
Jefferson County	Drifting	No
Lyon County	Drifting to Completely Snowpacked/Icy	No
Marshall County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy	No
Nemaha County	Drifting	No
Osage County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy	No
Pottawatomie County	Partly to Completely Snowpacked/Icy	No
Riley County	Spots to Completely Snowpacked/Icy	YES
Wabaunsee County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy	No

Current Road Closures for Northeast Kansas

There are no road closures to report for Northeast Kansas.

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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