



**For Northeast Kansas
as of NOON CST
Thursday, December 24, 2009**

Current Weather Forecast:

Northeast Kansas, including Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area

This Afternoon: Snow and areas of blowing snow. Temperature falling to around 21 by 5pm. Windy, with a north wind between 25 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. Total daytime snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

Tonight: Snow and widespread blowing snow. The snow could be heavy at times. Low around 12. Wind chill values between -5 and 5. Windy, with a north wind between 30 and 35 mph, with gusts as high as 45 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches possible.

Christmas Day: Snow likely and areas of blowing snow. Cloudy, with a high near 21. Wind chill values between -6 and 4. Windy, with a west wind between 25 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Friday Night: A 40 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 14. Wind chill values between -4 and 1. Breezy, with a west wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Winter Storm WARNING

**JEFFERSON-SHAWNEE-DOUGLAS-OSAGE-FRANKLIN-COFFEY-ANDERSON INCLUDING THE CITIES
OF...TOPEKA...LAWRENCE...OTTAWA.**

THE WINTER STORM WARNING IS NOW IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 PM CST FRIDAY.

TIMING: rain will mix with freezing rain and sleet before changing over completely to snow by this afternoon.

TOTAL SNOW ACCUMULATIONS: snowfall accumulations of 5 to 7 inches will be possible by Friday afternoon...with locally higher amounts possible.

WIND: north wind will increase to 25 to 35 mph with gusts as high as 45 mph on Thursday and Friday. This will result in reduced visibility...with near blizzard conditions at times...as well as blowing and drifting snow.

WIND CHILL: wind chill readings will be from five to fifteen below zero on Friday.

IMPACTS: travel will become very difficult today through Friday. Drifting of snow across roadways is likely.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...ACCUMULATIONS OF SNOW ARE FORECAST THAT WILL MAKE TRAVEL DANGEROUS. IF YOU MUST TRAVEL...KEEP AN EXTRA FLASHLIGHT...FOOD...AND WATER IN YOUR VEHICLE IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.

Greater Kansas City Metro Area

This Afternoon: Periods of freezing rain and sleet before 3pm, then periods of snow and sleet. High near 38. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 21 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 34 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Little or no ice accumulation expected. Total daytime snow and sleet accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible.

Tonight: Periods of snow and widespread blowing snow. Low around 16. Wind chill values between -2 and 8. Blustery, with a northwest wind between 23 and 26 mph, with gusts as high as 36 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

Christmas Day: Snow likely and areas of blowing snow. Cloudy, with a high near 22. Wind chill values between -3 and 6. Blustery, with a west wind between 22 and 24 mph, with gusts as high as 33 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Friday Night: A chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 17. Breezy, with a west wind between 17 and 22 mph, with gusts as high as 31 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Winter Storm WARNING

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.

A WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 PM CST FRIDAY.

Light rain is expected to change to light freezing rain and sleet by this morning. Sleet will eventually switch to all snow by late afternoon and evening today.

Minor icing is possible...with heavier sleet accumulations up to a quarter inch possible through late this afternoon. After changing to snow late this afternoon and evening...total sleet and snowfall accumulations through Friday afternoon may be in the 4 to 7 inch range.

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

Travel will become extremely dangerous this morning through Friday...with periods of heavy sleet and snow possible and significantly reduced visibilities. Persons planning on traveling for the holiday should consider making alternative plans

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS: A WINTER STORM WARNING MEANS SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF SNOW...SLEET...AND ICE ARE EXPECTED OR OCCURRING. STRONG WINDS ARE ALSO POSSIBLE. THIS WILL MAKE TRAVEL VERY HAZARDOUS OR IMPOSSIBLE.

Current Road Conditions

The sleet and snow is now falling throughout the majority of northeast Kansas. KDOT crews are out on the roadways treating and plowing in the areas where the sleet and snow is falling and/or accumulating. See the chart below for current roadway conditions for individual northeast Kansas counties.

ROADWAYS ARE SLICK throughout the NE Kansas area due to the sleet and dropping temps. Bridges and overpasses tend to become slick the quickest, when temps are dropping. Drivers are advised to TAKE IT SLOW!

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)	Wet/Slush	Yes
Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County)	Spots to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Atchison County	Partly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Brown County	Partly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Doniphan County	Partly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Douglas County	Wet/Slush	Yes
Jackson County	Spots Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Jefferson County	Spots to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Lyon County	Spots Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Marshall County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Nemaha County	Partly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Osage County	Wet/Slush	Yes
Pottawatomie County	Spots Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Riley County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Wabaunsee County	Spots Snowpacked/Ice	Yes

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 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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