



**For Northeast Kansas
as of 8:00 a.m. CST
Thursday, January 20, 2011
(UPDATED)**

Current Weather Forecast

Northeast Kansas, including Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area

Today: Mostly cloudy, then gradually becoming sunny, with a high near 22. Wind chill values between zero and 10. North wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 4. Wind chill values between -10 and zero. Calm wind becoming south between 5 and 10 mph.

There are no active winter weather advisories/watches/warnings at this time.

Greater Kansas City Metro Area

Today: A slight chance of light snow before noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 19. North northwest wind around 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 3. North northwest wind between 5 and 8 mph becoming calm.

There are no active winter weather advisories/watches/warnings at this time.

Current Road Conditions

All northeast Kansas counties are impacted by the current winter snow storm. *See the chart below for current roadway conditions for individual northeast Kansas counties.* Roadway conditions across all of northeast Kansas continue to be completely snowpacked/icy.

KDOT crews will continue to plow and treat (with salt and/or salt /sand mixture) as needed throughout the daytime hour. **GOOD NEWS:** Over the last couple of hours, more pavement is now appearing on mainline driving and passing lanes, which means melting is occurring and crews can now get more snow cleared off the roadways. Extra caution should be used at the ramp terminals due to the snowpacked conditions that still exist at many of the interchange areas.

Nighttime crews will switch out with daytime crews at around 8 a.m. this morning and head home for some much needed rest. Daytime crews will take over and may work another 12-hour shift depending on how road conditions look later in the day.

COUNTY/METRO AREA	CURRENT ROAD CONDITION
KC Metro Area (Johnson/Leavenworth/Wyandotte Counties)	Partly to Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County)	Partly to Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Atchison County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Brown County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Doniphan County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Douglas County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Jackson County	Mostly Snowpacked/Icy
Jefferson County	Mostly Snowpacked/Icy
Lyon County	Mostly Snowpacked/Icy
Marshall County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Nemaha County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy

Osage County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Pottawatomie County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Riley County	Mostly to Completely Snowpacked/Icy
Wabaunsee County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy

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 during winter storms, 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.

Current Road Closures for Northeast Kansas

No closed roads to report at this time.

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