



For Northeast Kansas
as of 3:30 p.m. CST
Friday, December 25, 2009

Merry Christmas!

DANGEROUS WINTER STORM ADVISORY for Thursday, December 24 through Friday, December 25!

Per the National Weather Service: "Stay inside and enjoy Christmas!" Travel is discouraged from Thursday evening through Friday afternoon. Travel will be dangerous to nearly impossible throughout all of Northeast Kansas (including Topeka/Lawrence Metro and Kansas City Metro Areas). Blowing snow will cause drifting on the highways making driving hazardous.

REMEMBER Drivers: Stay SAFE, stay off the roads, stay inside!

City of Topeka: As of 4 a.m. Christmas Day, the City of Topeka has declared a Snow Emergency. This means vehicles parked on designated snow routes can be ticketed or towed at the owner's expense. Designated snow routes are marked by red and white signs.

Kansas City Snow Ordinances Now In Effect (this morning): Kansas City officials have implemented the first two phases of the city snow ordinance. More at: <http://bit.ly/8eqrHi>

UPDATE! From Nebraska Dept. of Roads (NDOR): Travel is DANGEROUS in Central & Eastern Nebraska. I-80 is closed at various locations. More at: <http://bit.ly/4UWm5a>

UPDATE! From Iowa Dept. of Transportation: Iowa DOT issues travel condition update: AMES, Iowa – Dec. 25, 2009; 2 p.m. update – The Iowa Department of Transportation... More at: <http://bit.ly/5O7MvH>

Current Weather Forecast:

Northeast Kansas, including Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area

Christmas Day: Snow likely and areas of blowing snow. Cloudy, with a high near 19. Wind chill values between -5 and 1. Windy, with a west wind between 25 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. Total daytime snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Tonight: A 50 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 14. Wind chill values between -3 and 2. Breezy, with a west wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Saturday: A 30 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 24. Wind chill values between -3 and 7. Breezy, with a west wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Winter Weather Advisory

MARSHALL-NEMAHA-BROWN-RILEY-POTTAWATOMIE-JACKSON-JEFFERSON-GEARY-WABAUNSEE-SHAWNEE-DOUGLAS-OSAGE-FRANKLIN-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...MARYSVILLE...HIAWATHA...MANHATTAN...JUNCTION CITY...TOPEKA...LAWRENCE...OTTAWA.

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN TOPEKA HAS ISSUED A WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY FOR SNOW AND BLOWING SNOW...WHICH IS IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 PM CST THIS EVENING.

Wind: West winds of 20 to 30 mph with higher gusts will persist through the day. This will cause continued drifting of snow.

Wind chill: Wind chill readings from zero to 10 below will continue this morning.

Snow accumulations: Additional accumulations of snow from around an inch near I-70 to 1 to 3 inches near the Nebraska state line is possible.

Impacts: Travel will be treacherous due to deep snow drifts.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...TRAVEL WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT THIS MORNING. UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY...PEOPLE ARE ADVISED TO STAY HOME.

Greater Kansas City Metro Area

Christmas Day: Widespread blowing snow and a chance of snow before noon, then snow likely and widespread blowing snow after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 18. Wind chill values between -5 and zero. Breezy, with a west wind around 25 mph, with gusts as high as 34 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. Total daytime snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Tonight: Snow likely. Cloudy, with a low around 18. Wind chill values between zero and 5. Breezy, with a west wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 33 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Saturday: A chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 26. Breezy, with a west wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 29 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY

ATCHISON KS-MIAMI-LINN KS-LEAVENWORTH-WYANDOTTE-JOHNSON KS-PLATTE-CLAY-JACKSON-CASS-BATES-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...ATCHISON...PAOLA...MOUND CITY...LEAVENWORTH...OVERLAND PARK...OLATHE...PARKVILLE...PLATTE CITY...WESTON...LIBERTY...EXCELSIOR SPRINGS...KANSAS CITY...INDEPENDENCE...RAYMORE...HARRISONVILLE...PLEASANT HILL...BUTLER...RICH HILL.

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN KANSAS CITY/PLEASANT HILL HAS ISSUED A WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY FOR BLOWING SNOW WHICH IS IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 PM CST THIS EVENING.

Light snow and flurries will gradually taper off in and south of the Kansas City metro by late morning. Little or no additional accumulation is expected.

Strong west winds will persist through this afternoon...with sustained winds of 20 to 30 mph and gusts as high as 35 mph. Extensive blowing and drifting snow will reduce visibilities to one half mile at times. Reports have indicated snow drifts in excess of three feet in places already...with the potential for more significant drifting through the morning hours. Numerous highways and interstates have been closed and are nearly impassible. Travel should be limited to emergencies only.

The strong winds in combination with temperatures in the mid teens will combine to produce bitterly cold wind chills between zero and 10 below.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...A WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY MEANS DANGEROUS WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE OCCURRING. FALLING AND BLOWING SNOW WITH STRONG WINDS AND POOR VISIBILITIES ARE LIKELY. THIS WILL MAKE TRAVEL EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. IF YOU MUST TRAVEL...HAVE A WINTER SURVIVAL KIT WITH YOU. IF YOU GET STRANDED...STAY WITH YOUR VEHICLE.

Current Road Conditions

No significant changes in road conditions to report, as the winter storm conditions are on a holding pattern. Snow continues to fall and/or blow throughout all of northeast Kansas. KDOT crews are on the roadways primarily plowing (with minor treating) on an ongoing basis. However due to the gusting winds, blowing snow and the cold temps, drifting is a huge problem and it is proving to be extremely difficult to get roadways cleared and keep them that way. It will be this way throughout the rest of the afternoon today and possibly into the evening/overnight hours. Numerous NE Kansas highways are NOW CLOSED (see below) and we may see more closed before the Christmas Day is over. See the chart below for current roadway conditions for individual northeast Kansas counties.

Driver Safety Tips

Please remind DRIVERS if they must 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 with 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 remainder of the day, drivers should use extreme caution, IF THEY MUST GET OUT, 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)	Partly to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County)	Drifting to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Atchison County	Drifting	No
Brown County	Drifting	No
Doniphan County	Drifting	No
Douglas County	Partly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Jackson County	Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Jefferson County	Drifting	No
Lyon County	Drifting	No
Marshall County	Drifting	No
Nemaha County	Drifting	No
Osage County	Drifting to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Pottawatomie County	Drifting	Yes
Riley County	Drifting to Spots Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Wabaunsee County	Drifting	No

Current Road Closures

K-16 in Pottawatomie County is closed as of 12:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 25, from the city of Blaine to the City of Wheaton due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-16 in Pottawatomie County is closed as of 8:00 a.m., Friday, Dec. 25 from the K-63 junction to the Pottawatomie/Jackson County line due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-20 in Doniphan & Brown Counties is closed as of 11:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 24 from the US-73 Junction to the K-7 Junction due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-62 in Jackson County is closed as of 8:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 25 from the K-16 junction to the K-9 junction due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-63 in Pottawatomie County is closed as of 8:00 a.m., Friday, Dec. 25 from the north city limits of St. Mary's to the K-16 junction due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-87 in Marshall County is closed from VILLAGE OF VLIETS to the junction of US-36/K-87 as of 3:30 a.m. on Friday, December 25, due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-99 in Marshall County is closed as of 11 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 24 from the junction of K-99/US-36 and 234 to the Kansas/Nebraska state line, snow has drifted the road shut. The roadway is impassable at this time due to blowing and drifting snow.

K-110 in Marshall County is closed from the junction of US-36/K-110 to south city limits of AXTELL as of 3:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 25, due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-120 in Doniphan County is closed from the junction of K-20/K-120 to the south city limits of Highland as of 3:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 25, due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-187 in Nemaha County is closed from the junction of K-9/K-187 to the junction of US-36/K-187 as of 3:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 25, due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-233 in Marshall County is closed as of 9:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 25 from the US-77 junction to the west city limits of Oketo due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-246 in Brown County is closed from the US-75 junction to the west city limits of Morrill as of 3:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 25, due to blowing and drifting snow which is 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. **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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