



For Northeast Kansas
as of 3:30 p.m. CST
Wednesday, January 6, 2010

Updates from around Kansas & neighboring states

Oklahoma Department of Transportation: Winter Travel Prep: Remember bridges and ramps will be the first to freeze. Be aware of black ice and drive cautiously <http://ow.ly/TrQ2>

Current National Weather Service Forecast – UPDATED!

Northeast Kansas, including Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area

Late Afternoon: Snow. High near 24. West wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Total daytime snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Tonight: Snow and widespread blowing snow before midnight, then widespread blowing snow and a chance of snow after midnight. Low around 3. Wind chill values between -7 and -17. Blustery, with a north wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Thursday: Areas of blowing snow. Cloudy and cold, with a high near 6. Wind chill values between -15 and -20. Blustery, with a north wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around -8. Wind chill values between -19 and -26. Blustery, with a north wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

National Weather Service Winter Weather Advisory

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

A Winter Weather Advisory remains in effect until 6 pm CST Thursday.

* Timing...snow will begin to fall this morning and continue through the evening hours. Strong winds...blowing snow...and dangerous wind chills associated with this weather system will prevail across the region this afternoon through the day Thursday.

* Total snow accumulations...snow accumulations of 2 to 4 inches are expected in the advisory area.

* Winds...winds will increase to 20 to 30 mph by this evening with gusts to 35 mph expected to last into Thursday.

* Impacts...winds will cause significant blowing and drifting of snow...which will decrease visibilities and cause dangerously cold wind chills as low as 25 degrees below zero by early Thursday morning. Blowing and drifting snow...and dangerous wind chills will continue through the day Thursday. Wind chills of 20 to 30 below zero are expected for Thursday night and Friday.

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

Late Afternoon: Snow. High near 21. East wind around 5 mph becoming north. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Total daytime snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Tonight: Snow and widespread blowing snow before midnight, then widespread blowing snow and a chance of snow after midnight. Low around 8. Wind chill values between -2 and -12. Blustery, with a northwest wind 5 to 8 mph increasing to between 20 and 23 mph. Winds could gust as high as 31 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible.

Thursday: Widespread blowing snow and scattered flurries. Cloudy and cold, with a high near 9. Wind chill values between -9 and -14. Blustery, with a northwest wind between 20 and 22 mph, with gusts as high as 32 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Thursday Night: Areas of blowing snow. Cloudy, with a low around -5. Wind chill values between -16 and -22. Blustery, with a northwest wind between 14 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 28 mph.

National Weather Service Winter Storm Warning

MIAMI-LINN KS-LEAVENWORTH-WYANDOTTE-JOHNSON KS-HARRISON-MERCER- PUTNAM-SCHUYLER-DAVIESS-GRUNDY-SULLIVAN-ADAIR-CLINTON-CALDWELL-LIVINGSTON-LINN MO-MACON-PLATTE-CLAY-RAY-CARROLL-CHARITON-RANDOLPH-JACKSON-LAFAYETTE-SALINE-HOWARD-CASS-JOHNSON MO-PETTIS-COOPER-BATES-HENRY-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...PAOLA...MOUND CITY...LEAVENWORTH...OVERLAND PARK...OLATHE...BETHANY...PRINCETON...UNIONVILLE...LANCASTER...GALLATIN...JAMESPORT...TRENTON...MILAN...GREEN CITY...KIRKSVILLE...PLATTSBURG...HAMILTON...POLO...CHILLICOTHE...BROOKFIELD...MACON...LA PLATA...PARKVILLE...PLATTE CITY...WESTON...LIBERTY...EXCELSIOR SPRINGS...RICHMOND...CARROLLTON...SALISBURY...KEYTESVILLE...MOBERLY...KANSAS CITY...INDEPENDENCE...LEXINGTON...CONCORDIA...MARSHALL...FAYETTE...NEW FRANKLIN...RAYMORE...HARRISONVILLE...PLEASANT HILL...WARRENSBURG...SEDALIA...BOONVILLE...BUTLER...RICH HILL...CLINTON

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

* Short term trends...an area of light to occasionally moderate snow will continue to move southeast into portions of eastern Kansas and west central Missouri through 2 pm. Mixed in with snow may be brief patches of freezing drizzle. Further east...areas from Kirksville to Boonville may not see the snow develop until after 2 pm. Once snow moves into the area...local visibilities may be reduced under 1 mile at times with rapidly deteriorating conditions.

* Snow will become heavier at times during the afternoon and evening hours...then taper off along and just east of the Interstate 35 corridor before midnight. Areas further east should see the snow tapering off after midnight. Total accumulations will range from 2 to 4 inches in areas along the Missouri/Kansas state line to 3 to 5 inches from Moberly...to Chillicothe and Boonville.

* An arctic cold front will sweep through the region tonight...with winds increasing to between 20 and 25 mph with gusts up to 35 mph possible by Thursday morning. This will create significant blowing and drifting of snow with near blizzard conditions possible at times. Visibilities will be reduced to below one half mile with roads becoming near impassible...especially over rural and open areas.

* Dangerously cold wind chills will overspread the region Thursday as temperatures fall through the single digits. Wind chill values of 15 to 25 below zero will become widespread...creating 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!

The snow is falling throughout all northeast Kansas counties and roadways are slick. Numerous slide offs are occurring everywhere. Roadways, including mainline lanes, ramp areas, bridges and overpasses, will be slick due to the snowpacked and/or possible icy conditions, so drivers need to use caution and take it slow.

Road conditions are wet/slush to mostly snowpacked/icy throughout all of northeast Kansas. KDOT crews are out plowing and treating (salt/sand mixture) all roadways and will continue to do so throughout the late afternoon and overnight hours into Thursday. *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 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 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)	Wet/Slush (LV/WY) to Mostly & Completely Snowpacked/Icy (JO)	YES
Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County)	Partly Snowpacked/Icy	YES
Atchison County	Partly Snowpacked/Icy	No
Brown County	Partly Snowpacked/Icy	No
Doniphan County	Partly Snowpacked/Icy	No
Douglas County	Mostly Snowpacked/Icy	YES
Jackson County	Partly Snowpacked/Icy	YES
Jefferson County	Wet/Slush	No
Lyon County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Marshall County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy	YES
Nemaha County	Partly Snowpacked/Icy	YES
Osage County	Wet/Slush to Mostly Snowpacked/Icy	YES
Pottawatomie County	Spots to Partly Snowpacked/Icy	YES
Riley County	Spots to Partly Snowpacked/Icy	YES

Wabaunsee County

Mostly Snowpacked/Icy

YES

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/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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