



**For Northeast Kansas
as of 5:30 p.m. CST
Wednesday, January 6, 2010**

Updates from around Kansas & neighboring states

Colorado: As of 5:44 p.m. today, Colorado Department of Transportation crews are on snow shift. Temps are cold and ice may form especially on bridges, overpasses and ramps. "Ice and snow, take it slow."

Current National Weather Service Forecast – UPDATED!

Northeast Kansas, including Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area

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 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. Total nighttime snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Thursday: 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%.

Thursday Night: 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.

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

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.

Timing...snow will continue through the evening tonight...tapering to flurries by dawn Thursday. Strong northwest winds will develop this evening...resulting in blowing and drifting snow tonight and Thursday...with wind chills reaching dangerous levels late tonight and continuing through Saturday morning.

Total snow accumulations...accumulations commonly in the 2 to 4 inch range are expected.

Winds...winds will increase this evening to 15 to 30 mph with gusts to around 35 mph and persist through Thursday afternoon.

Impacts...blowing and drifting snow will result in reduced visibilities and some roads possibly drifting shut. Dangerous wind chills of 15 to 30 below zero are expected from late tonight through Saturday morning.

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

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 100%. Total nighttime 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 – Updated!

MIAMI-LINN KS-LEAVENWORTH-WYANDOTTE-JOHNSON KS-HARRISON-MERCER- PUTNAM-SCHUYLER-DAVISS-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...pockets of light to moderate snow are expected to continue across eastern Kansas and western Missouri...including the Kansas City metropolitan area through the evening commute. Local traffic cameras already indicate snow covered roadways...with little to no improvement expected. An additional 1 to 2 inches of snow may be possible through this evening.

Light snow is expected to come to an end before midnight as drier air arrives from the northwest. Total accumulations will range from 2 to 4 inches with locally higher amounts possible.

An arctic cold front will sweep into the region early this evening...with winds increasing to between 20 and 25 mph with gusts up to 35 mph possible by midnight. Winds are expected to remain strong through the daytime hours of Thursday. These strong winds will create significant blowing and drifting of snow reducing visibilities to or under one half mile at times.

Dangerously cold wind chills will also 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 continues to fall throughout all northeast Kansas counties and is expected to leave the area around midnight, though flurries will continue through tomorrow. Roadways are slick and numerous slide offs have occurred. Roadways, including mainline lanes, ramp areas, bridges and overpasses, will be slick in spots due to the snowpacked conditions, so drivers need to use caution and take it slow.

Road conditions range from wet/slush to completely snowpacked/icy throughout northeast Kansas. KDOT crews are out plowing currently and only treating (salt/sand mixture) where needed. They will continue to monitor conditions and plow and treat roadways throughout the evening 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 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	No
Jackson County	Partly Snowpacked/Icy	No
Jefferson County	Mostly Snowpacked/Icy	YES
Lyon County	Partly Snowpacked/Icy	YES
Marshall County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy	No
Nemaha County	Partly Snowpacked/Icy	YES
Osage County	Completely Snowpacked/Icy	YES
Pottawatomie County	Partly Snowpacked/Icy	YES
Riley County	Partly Snowpacked/Icy	YES
Wabaunsee County	Mostly 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/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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