



For Northeast Kansas
as of 5:00 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 late Friday evening. 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>

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>

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 zero and 5. Breezy, with a west wind around 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. Total daytime snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Tonight: Snow likely and areas of blowing snow. Cloudy, with a low around 12. Wind chill values between -5 and zero. Breezy, with a west wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Saturday: A 30 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 24. Wind chill values between -5 and 5. Breezy, with a west wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Winter Weather Advisory – [NEW!](#)

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 WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY IS NOW IN EFFECT UNTIL MIDNIGHT CST TONIGHT.

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

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

Snow accumulations: Additional accumulations of snow from around an inch along interstate 35 to 2 inches along interstate 70 are possible.

Impacts: Travel will be treacherous due blowing snow reducing visibilities to near zero at times and 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: Snow likely and widespread blowing snow. Cloudy, with a high near 17. Wind chill values between -1 and 4. Breezy, with a west southwest wind around 22 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. Total daytime snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Tonight: Snow and widespread blowing snow. Low around 12. Wind chill values between -5 and zero. Breezy, with a west wind between 16 and 23 mph, with gusts as high as 31 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Saturday: Areas of blowing snow and a chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 23. Wind chill values between -1 and 9. West wind between 14 and 18 mph, with gusts as high as 28 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY – NEW!

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 WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY FOR SNOW AND BLOWING SNOW IS NOW IN EFFECT UNTIL MIDNIGHT CST TONIGHT.

Light snow and flurries will continue in areas along and south of the Missouri river...including the Kansas City metropolitan areas...this afternoon and evening as an upper level storm system lingers to our northeast. Snow accumulation should remain light in nature...with most areas receiving less than 1 inch of snow.

However...strong west winds will persist through this evening with sustained winds of 20 to 30 mph and gusts as high as 35 mph possible. Extensive blowing and drifting snow will reduce visibilities to one half mile at times. Numerous roads may be impacted by this drifting snow...with north to south running roads the most susceptible to hazardous driving conditions. Travelers are urged to use extreme caution tonight.

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

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 still closed (see below) at this point in time. 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	No
Atchison County	Drifting	No
Brown County	Drifting	No
Doniphan County	Drifting	No
Douglas County	Partly Snowpacked/Ice	No
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	No
Pottawatomie County	Drifting	No
Riley County	Drifting to Spots Snowpacked/Ice	No
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!

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