



For Northeast Kansas
7:30 a.m. CST
Friday, January 8, 2010

Updates from around Kansas & neighboring states

Iowa: As of 6 p.m. yesterday, Iowa DOT reported hazardous travel conditions in Iowa this evening and overnight: AMES, Iowa – Jan. 7, 2010; 8 p.m. update – The Iowa... <http://bit.ly/8IXVp9>

Missouri: As of 4:45 a.m. today, Southwest Missouri DOT reports that I-44 Oklahoma state line to Springfield is clear. US 71 from Jasper south to Arkansas state line is clear. <http://bit.ly/7rvta9>; All other Southwest MoDOT District major roads are partly covered. <http://bit.ly/7ocl5z>

Nebraska: As of 1:34 a.m. today, Nebraska Department of Roads reports that travel remains difficult due to winds drifting snow and dangerous wind chills. Use 511/800-906-9069 and follow the prompts.

Oklahoma: As of 4:09 p.m. yesterday, Oklahoma DOT reported as the sun melts snow & ice and night falls, watch for icy patches on the roads, bridges & overpasses KNOW B4 U GO! <http://ow.ly/TMc4>

Current National Weather Service Forecast

Northeast Kansas, including Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area – UPDATED!

Today: Occasional flurries before noon. Partly sunny and cold, with a high near 2. Wind chill values between -16 and -26. North wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around -14. Wind chill values between -20 and -25. North wind around 5 mph.

Saturday: Sunny and cold, with a high near 6. Wind chill values between -15 and -25. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around -1. Wind chill values between -3 and -13. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph.

National Weather Service Wind Chill Warning

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 WIND CHILL WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL NOON CST SATURDAY.

Winds and temperatures...sustained winds of 10 to 20 mph with gusts to around 25 mph will continue into Friday morning. This will couple with bitterly cold temperatures to produce wind chills from 22 to 32 degrees below zero. Wind speeds will diminish through the day Friday and into Friday night...but even colder temperatures will continue to produce dangerous wind chills through Saturday morning.

Impacts...the extreme wind chills will cause frostbite of exposed skin in a short period of time. The extreme cold may also cause any unprotected plumbing to freeze and burst. Blowing and drifting of snow will diminish with the winds Friday 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 – UPDATED!

Today: Partly sunny and cold, with a high near 3. Wind chill values between -13 and -23. Northwest wind between 8 and 14 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around -10. Wind chill values between -16 and -24. North northwest wind between 6 and 8 mph.

Saturday: Sunny and cold, with a high near 6. Wind chill values between -14 and -24. North northwest wind between 3 and 7 mph.

Saturday Night: Clear, with a low around 0. Wind chill values between -6 and -11. Calm wind becoming southwest around 6 mph.

National Weather Service Wind Chill Warning

MIAMI-LINN KS-LEAVENWORTH-WYANDOTTE-JOHNSON KS-PLATTE-CLAY-RAY-JACKSON-LAFAYETTE-CASS-JOHNSON MO-BATES-HENRY-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...PAOLA...MOUND CITY...LEAVENWORTH...OVERLAND PARK...OLATHE...PARKVILLE...PLATTE CITY...WESTON...LIBERTY...EXCELSIOR SPRINGS...RICHMOND...KANSAS CITY...INDEPENDENCE...LEXINGTON...CONCORDIA...RAYMORE...HARRISONVILLE...PLEASANT HILL...WARRENSBURG...BUTLER...RICH HILL...CLINTON

A WIND CHILL WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL NOON CST SATURDAY.

Timing...dangerously cold wind chills from 20 to 30 below zero will be common across the region by sunrise. The coldest wind chill readings approaching 30 below zero will be over far northwest Missouri. There will be a slight improvement during the day with wind chill readings expected to be in the 10 below to 20 below range.

However...even colder air will make its way into the region tonight. By Saturday morning wind chill readings will range from 20 below zero in central Missouri to near 35 below zero over far northwest Missouri.

Winds...brisk northwest winds from 10 to 20 mph can be expected this morning with a few gusts to 25 mph over northern Missouri. The winds will gradually decrease throughout the day and by the afternoon hours the winds will be in the 10 to 15 mph range.

Impacts...these prolonged conditions will create a potentially life threatening situation for anyone caught outdoors and unprotected for more than a few minutes. Wind chills colder than 30 below will cause frostbite on exposed skin within 10 minutes. Although the winds will be gradually diminishing through the day some drifting of the snow is still likely...especially in more open rural areas and near the tops of hills.

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!

Road conditions currently vary from spots to partly snowpacked/ice to drifting throughout all of northeast Kansas. Drifting on the roadways is still a problem this morning; however, the strong gusting winds that we have been experiencing throughout northeast Kansas are expected to dwindle in intensity this morning. If these winds do subside as forecasted, KDOT crews will have a better opportunity to clear the roadways and keep them that way, as the drifting will ease off.

Many of the interstate highways have one or two (or more in KC Metro Area) clear driving and/or passing lanes, though continued drifting does create recurring spotty snowpacked conditions. Some second- and third-tier roadways continue to drift close, though crews are working hard to keep as many open as possible. Again, the closed road impacts should lessen as the gusting winds and blowing snows subside later this morning. *See below for a current list of road closures for northeast Kansas.*

Highways, including mainline lanes, ramp areas, bridges and overpasses, may be slick in spots due to the snowpacked/icy conditions, continued drifting snow and extremely cold single digit temperatures, so drivers need to use caution, take it slow and allow for extra time during the daytime hours. *See the chart below for current roadway conditions for individual northeast Kansas counties.*

Nighttime crews will head home and daytime crews will take over between 7-8 a.m. this morning. KDOT daytime crews will continue to focus on plowing and will spot treat only (salt/sand mixture) as needed throughout all northeast Kansas counties. KDOT crews will again monitor weather and road conditions today to see if those conditions lend themselves for more significant treating on the roadways during the daytime hours.

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 throughout the day, 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)	Spots (JO) Snowpacked/Ice to Drifting (LV/WY)	No
Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County)	Spots to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Atchison County	Drifting to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Brown County	Drifting to Spots to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Doniphan County	Drifting to Spots to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Douglas County	Drifting to Spots Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Jackson County	Partly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Jefferson County	Partly Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Lyon County	Drifting to Spots Snowpacked/Ice	No
Marshall County	Drifting	No
Nemaha County	Drifting to Spots to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Osage County	Drifting to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Pottawatomie County	Spots to Partly to Completely Snowpacked/Ice	No
Riley County	Spots Snowpacked/Ice	No
Wabaunsee County	Drifting	YES

Current Road Closures for Northeast Kansas

NOW OPEN!! K-87 in Marshall County is NOW OPEN to all traffic from the Village of Vilets to the US-36 junction. K-87 was closed as of 10:40 a.m. Thursday, January 7, due to blowing and drifting snow which was causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-99 in Marshall County is NOW CLOSED to all traffic from the City of Beattie to the Kansas/Nebraska state line as of 7:45 a.m., Thursday, January 7, due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-120 in Doniphan County is NOW CLOSED to all traffic from the junction of K-20/K-120 to the south city limits of Highland as of 5:00 p.m., Thursday, January 7, 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. **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!

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