



For Northeast Kansas
8:00 a.m. CST
Sunday, February 21, 2010

Updates from around Kansas & neighboring states

Wichita: As of 3:25 a.m., TODAY, Wichita KDOT reporting: Rain coming down in Wichita and we're at our high temp for Sunday (32°). Not shaping up to be a good travel day in KS. Use www.KanDrive.org

Current National Weather Service Forecast

Northeast Kansas, including Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area – UPDATED

Today: Snow and sleet, becoming all snow after 9am. High near 31. Blustery, with a north wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Total daytime snow and sleet accumulation of 3 to 7 inches possible.

Tonight: Snow likely, mainly before midnight. Cloudy, with a low around 19. Blustery, with a north wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Monday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 27. North wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

WINTER STORM WARNING

REPUBLIC-WASHINGTON-MARSHALL-NEMAHA-BROWN-CLOUD-CLAY-RILEY-POTTAWATOMIE-JACKSON-JEFFERSON-OTTAWA-DICKINSON-GEARY-MORRIS-WABAUNSEE-SHAWNEE-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...MARYSVILLE...HIAWATHA...CONCORDIA...CLAY CENTER...MANHATTAN...ABILENE...JUNCTION CITY...TOPEKA

A WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 AM CST MONDAY.

Timing...an occasional mix or freezing rain...sleet and snow will occur across the entire area overnight. The precipitation should change over to snow across north central Kansas around 6am...with the change to snow spreading from west to east into northeast Kansas during the late morning and eventually into east central Kansas during the early afternoon.

Ice accumulations...there could be a band of a quarter to a half inch of ice accumulate across portions of east central Kansas. The most likely area would be along and south of the Kansas turnpike.

Snow accumulations...snowfall amounts of 6 to 9 inches will be possible across north central and northeast Kansas...along a line from Minneapolis to Hiawatha. 4 to 6 inches of snow and sleet is possible from council grove to Topeka...with 1 to 2 inches of snow and sleet on top of any ice accumulations across east central Kansas.

Winds...wind will pick up from the north at 15 to 20 mph will gust up to 35 mph by Sunday afternoon.

Impacts...icing across east central Kansas could cause damage to trees and power lines. Heavy snow with the winds may cause drifting across north central and northeast Kansas. The wintry precipitation will make for treacherous travel conditions.

Precautionary/preparedness actions...a winter storm warning for heavy snow means severe winter weather conditions are expected or occurring. Significant amounts of 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.

Greater Kansas City Metro Area – UPDATED

Today: Rain, freezing rain, and sleet before noon, then snow and sleet between noon and 3pm, then snow after 3pm. The snow could be heavy at times. Some thunder is also possible. High near 32. North northeast wind between 13 and 18 mph, with gusts as high as 28 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Total daytime ice accumulation of 0.1 to 0.3 of an inch possible. Total daytime snow and sleet accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

Tonight: Snow, mainly before midnight. Low around 21. North northwest wind between 14 and 18 mph, with gusts as high as 28 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Monday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 29. North northwest wind between 9 and 14 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.

WINTER STORM WARNING

LEAVENWORTH-WYANDOTTE-PLATTE-CLAY-RAY-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF: LEAVENWORTH, PARKVILLE, PLATTE CITY, WESTON, LIBERTY, EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, RICHMOND

A WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL MIDNIGHT CST SUNDAY NIGHT.

Timing...intermittent showers of sleet and freezing rain...occasionally mixed with snow are expected to continue to the overnight hours into early Sunday morning. Precipitation will then change to all snow toward midday...becoming heavy at times this afternoon into the early evening hours...with snowfall rates potentially exceeding one inch per hour.

Accumulations...a wintry mix of precipitation will generally produce less than an inch of snow and ice accumulation through mid morning. Snow...heavy at times...is then expected this afternoon into the early evening with additional accumulations of 4 to 6 inches expected.

Impacts...roads will remain slick and hazardous through tonight. Ice accumulating on exposed surfaces will cause sidewalks and parking lots to become slick...with ice becoming snow covered later today.

Precautionary/preparedness actions...make sure you have an adequate supply of food. Check prescriptions to ensure an adequate supply of medicine through the duration of the storm. Check furnaces and fuel levels...and if travel is necessary...make sure your car is winterized and in good working order.

Current Road Conditions - UPDATED

Road conditions have changed a lot in the last couple of hours in many areas of northeast Kansas due to new snow falling throughout much of the western half of the area. Currently the conditions vary from wet/slush (KC Metro Area) to spots to completely snowpacked/icy throughout many northeast Kansas counties. Daytime high temps are going to stay right at or slightly less than the freezing mark (highs: 31-32), so the falling snow will stick to the roadways.

Highways, including mainline lanes, ramp areas, bridges and overpasses, may be SLICK in spots due to the NEW snowpacked/icy conditions. Mainline lanes in those areas affected by the new snow are snowpacked already.

KDOT daytime crews (nighttime crews have headed home to rest) are out on the roads busy plowing and treating (salt or salt/sand mixture) where needed. They will continue to do so throughout the daytime and early evening hours today. *See the chart below for current roadway conditions for individual northeast Kansas counties.*

Drivers need to use caution, TAKE IT SLOW, allow plenty of extra time, and stay a safe distance from other vehicles while travelling during the early morning 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 during winter storms, 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	No
Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County)	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Atchison County	Spots to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Brown County	Spots Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Doniphan County	Partly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Douglas County	Wet/Slush	No
Jackson County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Jefferson County	Spots to Completely/Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Lyon County	Spots to Completely Snowpacked/Ice	No
Marshall County	Spots to Completely Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Nemaha County	Partly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Osage County	Spots to Completely Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Pottawatomie County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Riley County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Wabaunsee County	Mostly to Completely Snowpacked/Ice	Yes

Current Road Closures for Northeast Kansas

Shawnee County: As of 8:00 a.m., Sunday, February 21, eastbound I-70 is still CLOSED at the K-4/Auburn Road interchange due to semi accident.

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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