



For Northeast Kansas  
as of 8:00 p.m. CST  
Wednesday, December 23, 2009

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**Current Weather Forecast:**

**Northeast Kansas, including Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area**

**Tonight:** Rain, mainly after midnight. Areas of fog before midnight. Low around 29. Blustery, with a north wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%.

**Thursday:** Snow and widespread blowing snow. High near 31. Windy, with a north wind between 20 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

**Thursday Night:** Snow and widespread blowing snow. Low around 13. Wind chill values between -5 and 5. Windy, with a northwest wind around 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

**Winter Storm WARNING**

JEFFERSON-SHAWNEE-DOUGLAS-OSAGE-FRANKLIN-COFFEY-ANDERSON INCLUDING THE CITIES  
OF...TOPEKA...LAWRENCE...OTTAWA.

The National Weather Service in Topeka has issued a winter storm warning for heavy snow and blowing snow, which is in effect from Noon Thursday to 6 pm CST Friday.

**Timing:** rain Thursday morning will rapidly change to snow in the afternoon across the warned area.

**Total snow accumulations:** snowfall accumulations of six to 8 inches will be possible by Friday afternoon. Locally higher amounts are possible. Heavy snow will move eastward through the day Thursday affecting all areas by Thursday afternoon.

**Winds:** northerly winds will increase to 25 to 35 mph with gusts as high as 45 mph on Thursday into Friday. This will result in reduced visibilities, with near blizzard conditions at times, as well as blowing and drifting snow.

**Impacts:** travel will become nearly impossible Thursday afternoon through Friday.

**PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...ANY TRAVEL IS STRONGLY DISCOURAGED. IF YOU LEAVE THE SAFETY OF BEING INDOORS...YOU ARE PUTTING YOUR LIFE AT RISK.**

**Greater Kansas City Metro Area**

**Tonight:** Occasional rain and possibly a thunderstorm. Low around 38. Northeast wind between 6 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 22 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

**Thursday:** Rain before noon, then rain, snow, freezing rain, and sleet. High near 39. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 29 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Little or no ice accumulation expected. New snow and sleet accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

**Thursday Night:** Snow and areas of blowing snow. Low around 16. Wind chill values between zero and 10. Blustery, with

a northwest wind between 21 and 26 mph, with gusts as high as 37 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches possible.

## **Winter Storm WARNING – NEW!!**

MIAMI-LINN KS-LEAVENWORTH-WYANOTTE-JOHNSON KS-WORTH-GENTRY-DE KALB-BUCHANAN-CLINTON-PLATTE-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...PAOLA...MOUND CITY...LEAVENWORTH...OVERLAND PARK...OLATHE...GRANT CITY...ALBANY...STANBERRY...CAMERON...ST. JOSEPH...PLATTSBURG...PARKVILLE...PLATTE CITY...WESTON.

**The National Weather Service in Kansas City/Pleasant Hill has issued a winter storm warning for snow...freezing rain...and sleet...which is in effect from 3 pm Thursday to 6 pm CST Friday. *The winter storm watch is no longer in effect.***

**Rain may change to freezing rain and sleet as early as Thursday afternoon. Through the late afternoon and evening hours Thursday, .mixed winter precipitation will gradually switch to all snow.**

**Ice and sleet accumulations up to a tenth of an inch will be possible through late Thursday afternoon. After changing to snow late Thursday afternoon...total snowfall accumulations through Friday afternoon may be in the 6 to 9 inch range.**

**Strong northwest to west winds will develop Thursday afternoon through Friday...with sustained winds possibly reaching 30 mph with higher gusts. This will create extensive blowing and drifting of snow and near blizzard conditions.**

**Travel may become extremely dangerous Thursday afternoon through Friday, with periods of heavy snow possible and significantly reduced visibilities. Persons planning on traveling for the holiday should either leave today...or make alternative plans.**

**PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS: A WINTER STORM WARNING MEANS SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF SNOW...SLEET...AND ICE ARE EXPECTED OR OCCURRING. STRONG WINDS ARE ALSO POSSIBLE. THIS WILL MAKE TRAVEL VERY HAZARDOUS OR IMPOSSIBLE.**

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### **Current Road Conditions**

KDOT crews are ready and prepared to hit the roadways once the sleet/ice/snow begins. No pre-treating will take place in advance of the storm due to the rain, as it would simply wash any treatment product off the roadways.

Current roadways are primarily wet due to the rain for most northeast Kansas counties. *See the chart below for current roadway conditions for individual northeast Kansas counties.*

Please remind DRIVERS as they travel about during the next couple of days 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.

### **Driver Safety Tips**

*For travel throughout the evening and overnight hours, 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) | Normal Seasonal Conditions      | No                |
| Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County)                     | Normal Seasonal Conditions      | No                |
| Atchison County  | Normal Seasonal Conditions      | No                |
| Brown County   | Normal Seasonal Conditions      | No                |
| Doniphan County  | Normal Seasonal Conditions      | No                |
| Douglas County   | Normal Seasonal Conditions      | No                |
| Jackson County   | Normal Seasonal Conditions      | No                |
| Jefferson County                                       | Normal Seasonal Conditions      | No                |
| Lyon County  | Normal Seasonal Conditions      | No                |
| Marshall County  | Normal Seasonal Conditions      | No                |
| Nemaha County  | Normal Seasonal Conditions      | No                |
| Osage County   | Normal Seasonal Conditions      | No                |
| Pottawatomie County                                    | Normal Seasonal Conditions      | No                |
| Riley County   | Normal Seasonal Conditions      | No                |
| Wabaunsee County                                       | Normal Seasonal Conditions      | No                |

### Current Road Closures

No road closures to report at this time.

### 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](http://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!

**Kimberly K. Qualls**  
**NE Kansas Public Affairs Manager**

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