



For Northeast Kansas
9:00 p.m. CST
Thursday, January 7, 2010

Updates from around Kansas & neighboring states

Lawrence, KS: As of 4:09 p.m. today, the City of Lawrence reports that clearing underway in residential areas; LPRD announces cancellations: <http://www.lawrenceks.org/lists/archive.php?x=1672>

Overland Park, KS: As of 4:25 p.m. today, the City of Overland Park reports that Overland Park crews are about 50 percent done with residential streets, expect to have all done Friday morning.

Iowa: As of 6 p.m., Iowa DOT reports hazardous travel conditions in Iowa this evening and overnight: AMES, Iowa – Jan. 7, 2010; 8 p.m. update – The low... <http://bit.ly/8lXVp9>

Missouri: As of 12:36 p.m., Missouri DOT/KC reports that cold temperatures...blowing snow makes for dangerous driving! Use the Traveler Information Map for updates! <http://tinyurl.com/dlcdsn>

Oklahoma: As of 4:09 p.m., Oklahoma DOT reports 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!

Tonight: Patchy blowing snow before midnight. Clear, with a low around -6. Wind chill values between -19 and -24. Blustery, with a north wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Friday: Sunny and cold, with a high near 2. Wind chill values between -15 and -25. North wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around -15. Wind chill values between -21 and -26. North wind around 5 mph.

National Weather Service Wind Chill Warning – UPDATED!

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

WIND CHILL WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL NOON CST SATURDAY. WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY IS CANCELLED.

Timing...dangerously cold wind chills will affect the area beginning this evening.and will last all the way through the morning hours on Saturday.

Winds and temperatures...sustained winds of 10 to 20 mph with gusts to around 25 mph will continue through tonight. This will couple with bitterly cold temperatures to produce wind chills from 22 to 32 degrees below zero. Wind speeds will diminish on Friday and 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. Some additional blowing and drifting of snow will be possible tonight prior to the decrease in wind speeds.

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!

Tonight: Widespread blowing snow before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around -3. Wind chill values between -18 and -23. Northwest wind between 15 and 18 mph, with gusts as high as 28 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny and cold, with a high near 1. Wind chill values between -13 and -23. Northwest wind between 7 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 22 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around -11. Wind chill values between -17 and -22. Northwest wind between 3 and 7 mph.

National Weather Service Wind Chill Warning – UPDATED!

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.

Dangerously cold wind chills will overspread the region tonight as temperatures fall through the single digits. Wind chill values have already fallen to 10 to 20 below zero this evening. As colder air continues to move southward tonight...wind chill values will sink to between 20 and 35 below zero by Friday morning.

Brutally cold temperatures will continue to result in dangerously cold wind chill values through Saturday morning. Daytime wind chill values will range from 10 to 20 below Friday and Saturday. However...even with winds being lighter by Saturday morning...wind chills of 20 and 35 below zero are expected before daybreak. These prolonged conditions will create a potentially life threatening situation for anyone caught outdoors and unprotected for more than a few minutes.

The wind gusts will continue to subside the rest of the night easing the blowing and drifting snow problems. However...motorists may still encounter areas where minor drifting or blowing of snow is occurring...especially in more open rural areas.

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 have held steady most of the day, improving slightly during the late afternoon hours. Conditions currently range from spots to partly snowpacked/icy combined with drifting throughout much of northeast Kansas. Many of the interstate highways may have one or two fairly clear driving lanes (with

snowpacked spots) but the passing lanes are partly to mostly snowpacked/icy. Drifting on the roadways continues to be a significant problem throughout all of northeast Kansas and will be throughout the overnight hours. Winds continue gusting up to 35 mph causing the snow to blow back across the roadways, causing slick/icy spots. Some secondary roadways continue to drift close, though crews are working to keep as many open as possible. *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 evening and overnight hours. Drivers should be mindful of possible black ice conditions on the highways, even if the pavement surface appears to be dry, the roadway surface may be icy. *See the chart below for current roadway conditions for individual northeast Kansas counties.*

KDOT nighttime crews will continue to focus on plowing and will spot treat only (salt/sand mixture) as needed during the evening and overnight hours throughout all northeast Kansas counties. Conditions were not favorable for significant treating on the roadways during the daytime hours, due to the cold temps and the gusting winds. Plowing is the primary alternative for dealing with the ongoing drifting.

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 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)	Spots (JO) to Partly (LV/WY) Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County)	Drifting to Spots/Partly Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Atchison County	Drifting to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Brown County	Drifting to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Doniphan County	Drifting to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Douglas County	Drifting to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Jackson County	Partly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Jefferson County	Drifting	No
Lyon County	Drifting to Spots Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Marshall County	Drifting	No
Nemaha County	Drifting to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Osage County	Drifting to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	YES

Pottawatomie County	Spots to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Riley County	Spots to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	YES
Wabaunsee County	Drifting to Spots Snowpacked/Ice	YES

Current Road Closures for Northeast Kansas

K-87 in Marshall County is NOW CLOSED to all traffic from the Village of Vilets to the US-36 junction as of 10:40 a.m. Thursday, January 7, due to blowing and drifting snow which is 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.

NEW! 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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