



**For Northeast Kansas
as of 7:00 a.m. CST
Monday, January 31, 2011
(UPDATED)**

Current Weather Forecast

Northeast Kansas, including Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area

Today: Freezing rain, mainly before noon. High near 30. North wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. Total daytime ice accumulation of less than a 0.1 of an inch possible.

Tonight: Snow and freezing drizzle, becoming all snow after 9pm. Areas of blowing snow after 9pm. Low around 12. Wind chill values between -6 and 4. Blustery, with a north wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. Little or no ice accumulation expected. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Tuesday: Snow and widespread blowing snow. The snow could be heavy at times. High near 19. Wind chill values between -1 and -8. Windy, with a north wind between 25 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow accumulation of 6 to 10 inches possible.

Winter Storm Warning

MARSHALL-NEMAHA-BROWN-RILEY-POTTAWATOMIE-JACKSON-JEFFERSON-DICKINSON-GEARY-MORRIS-WABAUNSEE-SHAWNEE-DOUGLAS-LYON-OSAGE-FRANKLIN-COFFEY-ANDERSON-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...MARYSVILLE...HIAWATHA...MANHATTAN...ABILENE...JUNCTION CITY...TOPEKA...LAWRENCE...EMPORIA...OTTAWA

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

* TIMING...AREAS OF FREEZING DRIZZLE WILL CONTINUE MONDAY MORNING THROUGH MONDAY EVENING BEFORE CHANGING TO ALL SNOW MONDAY NIGHT. THE SNOW WILL THEN PERSIST THROUGH THE DAY TUESDAY BEFORE DIMINISHING LATE TUESDAY NIGHT.

* TOTAL SNOW AND ICE ACCUMULATIONS...ICE ACCUMULATIONS UP TO A TENTH OF AN INCH ARE POSSIBLE BY MONDAY EVENING. TOTAL SNOW ACCUMULATIONS OF 8 TO 12 INCHES ARE EXPECTED BY LATE TUESDAY NIGHT.

* WINDS...STRONG NORTH WINDS WILL INCREASE BY TUESDAY TO 20 TO 30 MPH WITH GUSTS TO 35 MPH. THIS WILL PRODUCE AREAS OF SIGNIFICANT BLOWING AND DRIFTING SNOW.

* IMPACTS...AREA ROADWAYS WILL BECOME SLICK FROM FREEZING DRIZZLE. CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE MONDAY NIGHT INTO TUESDAY AS PERIODS OF MODERATE TO HEAVY SNOW COMBINE WITH WIND DRIVEN SNOW TO PRODUCE POOR VISIBILITIES AND EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS DRIVING CONDITIONS. WITH BITTERLY COLD ARCTIC AIR ALSO OVERSPREADING THE AREA...WIND CHILL INDICES OF 15 TO 25 DEGREES BELOW ZERO CAN ALSO BE EXPECTED TUESDAY NIGHT.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...TRAVEL IN STRONG WINDS AND HEAVY SNOW IS STRONGLY DISCOURAGED. AREA ROADWAYS WILL BE SLICK FROM FREEZING DRIZZLE BEFORE THE SNOW FALLS.

MAKE SURE THAT YOUR GASOLINE TANK IS FULL BEFORE YOUR TRIP. ALSO CHECK ANTIFREEZE LEVELS IN YOUR RADIATOR. CONSIDER TAKING A WINTER STORM KIT ALONG WITH YOU...INCLUDING SUCH ITEMS AS TIRE CHAINS...BOOSTER CABLES...FLASHLIGHT...SHOVEL...A BAG OF SAND OR CAT LITTER...BLANKETS AND EXTRA CLOTHING...WATER...A FIRST AID KIT...OR ANYTHING ELSE THAT WOULD HELP YOU SURVIVE IN CASE YOU BECOME STRANDED. EXPOSED SKIN CAN SUFFER FROM FROSTBITE IN A VERY SHORT TIME...SO DRESS ADEQUATELY. BE SURE TO WEAR LAYERED CLOTHING...A HAT...AND GLOVES TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THE DANGERS OF FROSTBITE.

Greater Kansas City Metro Area

Today: Occasional freezing drizzle. Cloudy, with a high near 31. Northeast wind around 10 mph.

Tonight: Snow, possibly mixed with freezing drizzle, becoming all snow after midnight. Low around 16. North northeast wind between

10 and 16 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. Little or no ice accumulation expected. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Tuesday: Snow and widespread blowing snow. The snow could be heavy at times. High near 20. Wind chill values between -1 and 4. Windy, with a north northeast wind 17 to 20 mph increasing to between 27 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 39 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow accumulation of 7 to 11 inches possible.

Winter Storm Warning

LEAVENWORTH-WYANDOTTE-JOHNSON KS-CLINTON-PLATTE-CLAY-JACKSON-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...LEAVENWORTH...OVERLAND PARK...OLATHE...PLATTSBURG...PARKVILLE...PLATTE CITY...WESTON...LIBERTY...EXCELSIOR SPRINGS...KANSAS CITY...INDEPENDENCE

A WINTER STORM WARNING FOR FREEZING PRECIPITATION AND HEAVY SNOW REMAINS IN EFFECT FROM 3 AM MONDAY TO 6 AM CST WEDNESDAY.

* LOCATIONS...KANSAS CITY AND SURROUNDINGS AREAS INCLUDING OLATHE...PLATTE CITY...LEAVENWORTH...LIBERTY...LEES SUMMIT AND RAYMORE.

* TIMING...FREEZING DRIZZLE WILL INCREASE IN COVERAGE ACROSS THE KANSAS CITY METROPOLITAN AREA TODAY. AFTER A POSSIBLE BRIEF LULL THIS EVENING...THE PRECIPITATION WILL CHANGE OVER TO SNOW TONIGHT. HEAVY SNOW WILL THEN OVERSPREAD THE AREA TUESDAY. THE SNOW WILL TAPER OFF TUESDAY NIGHT AND GRADUALLY END EARLY WEDNESDAY MORNING.

* SNOW AND ICE ACCUMULATIONS...A LIGHT GLAZE OF ICE UP TO A TENTH OF AN INCH IS POSSIBLE THROUGH THIS EVENING. SNOW ACCUMULATIONS BETWEEN 10 AND 15 INCHES ARE EXPECTED THROUGH WEDNESDAY MORNING...WITH THE HIGHEST ACCUMULATIONS IN THE SOUTHEAST SUBURBS.

* IMPACTS...POORLY OR UNTREATED ROADWAYS AND SIDEWALKS WILL BECOME SLICK TODAY WITH THE FREEZING DRIZZLE. ONCE SNOW ARRIVES LATE TONIGHT AND EARLY TUESDAY MORNING...ROADS WILL RAPIDLY BECOME SNOW COVERED AND TRAVEL WILL BE DANGEROUS IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE. THIS STORM HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BRING TRAVEL TO A HALT OVER MUCH OF KANSAS AND MISSOURI TUESDAY THROUGH EARLY WEDNESDAY.

* OTHER IMPACTS...STRONG WINDS BETWEEN 25 AND 35 MPH WILL OVERSPREAD THE REGION TUESDAY AFTERNOON...AND WILL CREATE SIGNIFICANT BLOWING AND DRIFTING SNOW ALONG WITH NEAR WHITEOUT CONDITIONS THROUGH EARLY WEDNESDAY. NEAR BLIZZARD CONDITIONS WILL BE POSSIBLE ON ALL MAJOR ROADWAYS. THE STRONG WINDS MAY ALSO LEAD TO POWER OUTAGES... WHICH WOULD PRODUCE IMPACTS LONG AFTER THE SNOW HAS ENDED AS TEMPERATURES FALL TO BELOW ZERO BY WEDNESDAY MORNING.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...PRACTICE YOUR WINTER SAFETY RULES...KEEP A FLASHLIGHT...SHOVEL...FOOD AND WATER IN YOUR CAR IN CASE OF EMERGENCY. TRAVEL ON UESDAY SHOULD BE AVOIDED AS PERSONS COULD BECOME STRANDED RESULTING IN A POTENTIALLY LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION.

IN CASE OF POSSIBLE POWER OUTAGES...PERSONS ARE URGED TO ENSURE AN AMPLE SUPPLY OF FOOD AND MEDICATION...AS WELL AS HAVING AN ALTERNATIVE HEAT SUPPLY READY. DO NOT RUN GENERATORS INDOORS TO PREVENT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING. PROTECT YOUR WATER SUPPLY FROM FROZEN PIPES.

CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE LATEST FORECASTS DURING THIS STILL DEVELOPING WINTER STORM. TRAVEL SHOULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE ICY CONDITIONS DEVELOP ON MONDAY AND AVOIDED THROUGH EARLY WEDNESDAY. =

Current Road Conditions

Currently roadway conditions across Northeast Kansas range from wet/slush to partly to completely icy conditions. See the chart below for current roadway conditions for individual Northeast Kansas counties. KDOT crews are not reporting any real problem spots, though drivers should use extra caution around bridges and ramp areas as these tend to be slickest.

KDOT nighttime crews have been out treating since the early morning hours as needed. Nighttime crews will head home around 8:00 a.m. and daytime crews will head out shortly thereafter for another 12-hour shift.

Drivers should allow extra time for their commutes in this morning and should drive for the conditions on the roadways they are travelling on. Roadways may be SLICK in spots due to the icy conditions, so drivers need to use caution as they travel about this morning and/or during the daytime hours. Drivers, should TAKE IT SLOW!

COUNTY/METRO AREA	CURRENT ROAD CONDITION
KC Metro Area (Johnson/Leavenworth/Wyandotte Counties)	Wet/Slush
Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County)	Spots Snowpacked/Ice
Atchison County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice
Brown County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice
Doniphan County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice
Douglas County	Wet/Slush
Jackson County	Spots Snowpacked/Ice
Jefferson County	Partly Snowpacked/Ice
Lyon County	Wet/Slush
Marshall County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice
Nemaha County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice
Osage County	Wet/Slush
Pottawatomie County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice
Riley County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice
Wabaunsee County	Partly to Completely Snowpacked/Ice

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.

Current Road Closures for Northeast Kansas

No closed roads to report at this time.

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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