



**For Northeast Kansas
as of 9:00 a.m. CST
Tuesday, February 1, 2011
(UPDATED)**

Current Weather Forecast

Northeast Kansas, including Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area

Today: Snow and widespread blowing snow. High near 13. Wind chill values between -4 and -9. Windy, with a north wind between 25 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Total daytime snow accumulation of 5 to 9 inches possible.

Tonight: Snow and widespread blowing snow before midnight, then snow likely and widespread blowing snow after midnight. Low around -2. Wind chill values between -13 and -23. Windy, with a north wind between 20 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible.

Wednesday: Areas of blowing snow before noon. Cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny and cold, with a high near 9. Wind chill values between -13 and -23. Blustery, with a north wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Winter Storm Warning

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

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

* TIMING...SNOW WILL BECOME HEAVY BY NOON...AND THEN PERSIST THROUGH THE AFTERNOON BEFORE DIMINISHING LATE TONIGHT.

* TOTAL SNOW AND ICE ACCUMULATIONS...TOTAL SNOW ACCUMULATIONS OF 6 TO 10 INCHES ARE EXPECTED BY LATE TONIGHT.

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

* IMPACTS...CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE 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 TONIGHT.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...TRAVEL IN STRONG WINDS AND HEAVY SNOW IS STRONGLY DISCOURAGED.

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: Snow and widespread blowing snow. The snow could be heavy at times. High near 18. Wind chill values between -2 and 3. Windy, with a north northeast wind between 21 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 39 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Total daytime snow accumulation of 6 to 10 inches possible.

Tonight: Snow and widespread blowing snow. The snow could be heavy at times. Low around 3. Wind chill values between -8 and -18. Windy, with a north northwest wind between 23 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 39 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Wednesday: Areas of blowing snow. Mostly cloudy and cold, with a high near 10. Wind chill values between -8 and -18. Blustery, with a north northwest wind 19 to 22 mph decreasing to between 10 and 13 mph. Winds could gust as high as 31 mph.

Blizzard 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 BLIZZARD WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 AM CST WEDNESDAY.

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

* TIMING...SNOW WILL OVERSPREAD THE REGION FROM SOUTH TO NORTH DURING THE MORNING COMMUTE AND WILL BECOME HEAVY AT TIMES THROUGH THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING HOURS...ESPECIALLY OVER THE SOUTHEAST SUBURBS. THE SNOW WILL TAPER OFF LATE TONIGHT AND END WEDNESDAY MORNING.

* SNOW ACCUMULATIONS WILL VARY ACROSS THE KANSAS CITY METROPOLITAN REGION. BETWEEN 7 AND 12 INCHES OF SNOW IS EXPECTED BY WEDNESDAY MORNING...WITH THE HIGHEST ACCUMULATIONS IN THE SOUTHEAST SUBURBS. EMBEDDED THUNDERSTORMS MAY ALSO LEAD TO RAPID ACCUMULATIONS OF AN INCH PER HOUR OR MORE PER HOUR OVER PORTIONS OF THE KANSAS CITY AREA AT TIMES.

* IMPACTS...ROADS WILL RAPIDLY BECOME SNOW COVERED AND TRAVEL WILL BE DANGEROUS IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE...ESPECIALLY SOUTH AND EAST OF THE CITY. 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 40 MPH WILL OVERSPREAD THE REGION TODAY...CREATING SIGNIFICANT BLOWING AND DRIFTING SNOW ALONG WITH WHITEOUT CONDITIONS THROUGH EARLY WEDNESDAY. BLIZZARD CONDITIONS WILL BE POSSIBLE ON ALL MAJOR ROADWAYS THIS AFTERNOON THROUGH TONIGHT. 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...A BLIZZARD WARNING MEANS SEVERE WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED OR OCCURRING. FALLING AND BLOWING SNOW WITH STRONG WINDS AND POOR VISIBILITIES ARE LIKELY. THIS WILL LEAD TO WHITEOUT CONDITIONS...MAKING TRAVEL EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. DO NOT TRAVEL. IF YOU MUST TRAVEL...HAVE A WINTER SURVIVAL KIT WITH YOU. IF YOU GET STRANDED...STAY WITH YOUR VEHICLE.

PRACTICE YOUR WINTER SAFETY RULES...KEEP A FLASHLIGHT...SHOVEL..FOOD AND WATER IN YOUR CAR IN CASE OF EMERGENCY. TRAVEL 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. PROTECT YOUR WATER SUPPLY FROM FROZEN PIPES.

Current Road Conditions

Currently roadway conditions across Northeast Kansas are mostly to completely snowpacked throughout the region. See the chart below for current roadway conditions for individual Northeast Kansas counties. Road conditions are not expected to improve much over the next 24 to 48 hours due to the ongoing falling and blowing snow.

KDOT daytime crews are now plowing continuously and treating as needed. Nighttime crews have headed home to rest up for their next 12-hour shift tonight. The blowing and drifting snow is making it difficult for crews to keep the roadways clear.

We strongly encourage drivers to Stay Home, Stay Warm, Stay Safe today! If drivers must get out, they should allow extra time for their daily commute and should drive for the conditions on the roadways they are travelling on.

Roadways may be SLICK in spots due to the snowpacked conditions, so drivers need to use caution and take it slow as they travel about today.

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