



For Northeast Kansas
6:00 p.m. CST
Saturday, March 20, 2010

Updates from around Kansas & neighboring states

Oklahoma: Oklahoma DOT reports at 5:00 p.m., CENTRAL/NORTHERN OK - Slick, hazardous roads, some icing in OKC area. Unnecessary travel discouraged. #oksnow

Current National Weather Service Forecast

Northeast Kansas, including Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area – UPDATED!

Tonight: Snow likely, mainly before 7pm. Cloudy, with a low around 25. Blustery, with a north wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. Total nighttime snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of snow before 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 39. Breezy, with a north wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 22. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY – UPDATED!

JEFFERSON-SHAWNEE-INCLUDING THE CITY OF...TOPEKA

THE WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY IS NOW IN EFFECT UNTIL 1 AM CDT SUNDAY.

Timing...an additional one to two inches of snow are possible through late tonight.

Total snow accumulations...including snowfall from today...total snow accumulations of 5 to 7 inches are expected from the event.

Winds...north winds of 15 to 20 mph with gusts up to 30 mph will be possible early through tonight.

Impacts...snow combined with winds through tonight will reduce visibilities and make for hazardous travel conditions as snow blows across roadways

Precautionary/preparedness actions...wintry precipitation is forecast to accumulate in the affected areas causing hazardous driving conditions. Those with travel plans are advised to choose an alternate route...or should use extreme caution if travel is unavoidable.

Greater Kansas City Metro Area – UPDATED!

Tonight: Snow. Low around 32. North wind between 16 and 18 mph, with gusts as high as 28 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. Total nighttime snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible.

Sunday: A chance of snow before 1pm, then a slight chance of rain and snow. Cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 38. North northeast wind between 14 and 18 mph, with gusts as high as 28 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%. New precipitation amounts of less than a tenth of an inch possible.

Sunday Night: Patchy fog after 1am. Otherwise, clear, with a low around 28. North wind between 6 and 13 mph.

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY—UPDATED!

LEAVENWORTH-WYANDOTTE-JOHNSON KS-PUTNAM-SCHUYLER-DAVISS-GRUNDY-SULLIVAN-ADAIR-CLINTON-CALDWELL-LIVINGSTON-LINN MO-PLATTE-CLAY-RAY-JACKSON-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...LEAVENWORTH...OVERLAND

PARK...OLATHE...UNIONVILLE...LANCASTER...GALLATIN...JAMESPORT...TRENTON...MILAN...GREEN CITY...KIRKSVILLE...PLATTSBURG...HAMILTON...POLO...CHILLICOTHE...BROOKFIELD...PARKVILLE...PLATTE CITY...WESTON...LIBERTY...EXCELSIOR SPRINGS...RICHMOND...KANSAS CITY...INDEPENDENCE

A WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY FOR SNOW REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 7 AM CDT SUNDAY.

Location...east central Kansas...west central into northeast Missouri...including the Kansas city metro area...Chillicothe and Kirksville.

Timing...light to moderate snow will continue over the area through the rest of the day and into the overnight hours. The snow may mix with or change over to sleet and freezing rain over portions of central into eastern Missouri toward day break Sunday. The change over to a wintry mix will continue from east to west Sunday morning...with the precipitation gradually ending from northwest to southeast Sunday afternoon. The significant accumulating snowfall is expected to end by tomorrow morning.

Snow accumulations...2 to 3 inches of snow has fallen across the area during the afternoon hours...making the snow fall range thus far around 3 to 7 inches. Additional snowfall of 1 to 3 inches is possible...with the heavier amounts expected closer to central Missouri.

Impacts...driving may be hazardous through tonight...due to snow and slush covered roads if left untreated. In addition...strong north winds may cause blowing of the snow which will also reduce visibilities in some locations. Motorists should exercise extreme caution when traveling

Precautionary/preparedness actions...a winter weather advisory for snow means that periods of snow will cause primarily travel difficulties. Be prepared for snow covered roads and limited visibilities...and use caution while driving.

Current Road Conditions

Road conditions currently range from normal seasonal conditions to wet/slush to drifting to partly snowpacked throughout NE Kansas. KDOT daytime crews continue to plow and treat (salt or salt/sand mixture) all roadways as needed and will throughout the remainder of the afternoon and into the evening hours. See the chart below for current roadway conditions for individual northeast Kansas counties.

Snow flurries may fall throughout the late afternoon and into the evening hours. Highways, including mainline lanes, ramp areas, bridges and overpasses, may be slick due to the slushy and/or snowpacked/icy conditions throughout all NE Kansas counties. Blowing snow and gusting winds are causing drifting to occur, primarily on rural roadways. As temps drop overnight, drivers will need to watch for refreezing and/or icy spots on the roadways. DRIVERS NEED TO USE CAUTION, TAKE IT SLOW AND ALLOW FOR EXTRA TIME DURING THE EVENING/OVERNIGHT 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 | Yes |
| Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County) | Wet/Slush to Spots Snowpacked/Ice | Yes |
| Atchison County | Normal Seasonal to Spots Snowpacked/Icy | Yes |
| Brown County | Normal Seasonal to Spots Snowpacked/Icy | Yes |
| Doniphan County | Normal Seasonal to Spots Snowpacked/Icy | Yes |
| Douglas County | Spots to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice | Yes |
| Jackson County | Completely Snowpacked/Ice | Yes |
| Jefferson County | Partly to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice | Yes |
| Lyon County | Partly Snowpacked/Ice | Yes |
| Marshall County | Normal Seasonal to Spots Snowpacked/Icy | Yes |
| Nemaha County | Normal Seasonal to Spots Snowpacked/Icy | Yes |
| Osage County | Spots to Partly Snowpacked/Ice | Yes |
| Pottawatomie County | Spots Snowpacked/Ice | Yes |
| Riley County | Normal Seasonal to Wet/Slush | No |
| Wabaunsee County | Drifting to Spots Snowpacked/Ice | Yes |

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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