



**For Northeast Kansas
as of 7:30 a.m. CST
Saturday, December 26, 2009**

Current Weather Forecast:

Northeast Kansas, including Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area

Today: Areas of blowing snow and a chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 24. Wind chill values between -5 and 5. Breezy, with a west wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 14. West wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 24. Northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

There are no active winter weather advisories in effect now.

Greater Kansas City Metro Area

Christmas Day: Snow likely and widespread blowing snow. Cloudy, with a high near 17. Wind chill values between -1 and 4. Breezy, with a west southwest wind around 22 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. Total daytime snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Tonight: Snow and widespread blowing snow. Low around 12. Wind chill values between -5 and zero. Breezy, with a west wind between 16 and 23 mph, with gusts as high as 31 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Saturday: Areas of blowing snow and a chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 23. Wind chill values between -1 and 9. West wind between 14 and 18 mph, with gusts as high as 28 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

There are no active winter weather advisories in effect now.

Current Road Conditions

Light snow continues to fall and/or blow throughout parts of northeast Kansas. KDOT crews are on the roadways primarily plowing (with minor treating) on an ongoing basis. However due to the gusting winds, blowing snow and the cold temps, drifting continues to be a problem and it is proving difficult to keep roadways cleared. The roadways continue to drift and will throughout the day, due to the continued gusting winds. KDOT crews will begin more treating (salt or sand/salt mixture) today on area roadways to hopefully initiate some minor melting, along with the continued plowing.

Overall road conditions did not change overnight. Numerous NE Kansas highways are still closed (see below) at this point in time. *See the chart below for current roadway conditions for individual northeast Kansas counties.*

Driver Safety Tips

Please remind DRIVERS if they must 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 with 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 remainder of the day, drivers should use extreme caution, IF THEY MUST GET OUT, 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)	Partly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County)	Drifting to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Atchison County	Drifting	No
Brown County	Drifting	No
Doniphan County	Drifting	No
Douglas County	Spots to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Jackson County	Spots Snowpacked/Ice	No
Jefferson County	Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Lyon County	Drifting	No
Marshall County	Drifting	No
Nemaha County	Drifting to Completely Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Osage County	Drifting to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Pottawatomie County	Drifting	No
Riley County	Drifting to Spots Snowpacked/Ice	No
Wabaunsee County	Drifting	No

Current Road Closures

K-16 in Pottawatomie County is closed as of 12:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 25, from the city of Blaine to the City of Wheaton due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-16 in Pottawatomie County is closed as of 8:00 a.m., Friday, Dec. 25 from the K-63 junction to the Pottawatomie/Jackson County line due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-20 in Doniphan & Brown Counties is closed as of 11:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 24 from the US-73 Junction to the K-7 Junction due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-62 in Jackson County is closed as of 8:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 25 from the K-16 junction to the K-9 junction due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-63 in Pottawatomie County is closed as of 8:00 a.m., Friday, Dec. 25 from the north city limits of St. Mary's to the K-16 junction due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-87 in Marshall County is closed from VILLAGE OF VLIETS to the junction of US-36/K-87 as of 3:30 a.m. on Friday, December 25, due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-99 in Marshall County is closed as of 11 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 24 from the junction of K-99/US-36 and 234 to the Kansas/Nebraska state line, snow has drifted the road shut. The roadway is impassable at this time due to blowing and drifting snow.

K-110 in Marshall County is closed from the junction of US-36/K-110 to south city limits of AXTELL as of 3:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 25, due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-120 in Doniphan County is closed from the junction of K-20/K-120 to the south city limits of Highland as of 3:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 25, due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-187 in Nemaha County is closed from the junction of K-9/K-187 to the junction of US-36/K-187 as of 3:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 25, due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-233 in Marshall County is closed as of 9:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 25 from the US-77 junction to the west city limits of Oketo due to blowing and drifting snow which is causing the roadway to be impassable for drivers.

K-246 in Brown County is closed from the US-75 junction to the west city limits of Morrill as of 3:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 25, 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. **New!! 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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