



For Northeast Kansas
as of 6:30 p.m. CST
Saturday, December 26, 2009

Updates from around Kansas & neighboring states

Oklahoma

Highways in NE Oklahoma snow packed & hazardous. In mid-section (Red River to Kansas line) slick in spots.

<http://ow.ly/PV2x>

ODOT crews from counties, where snow hit and subsided first, redeployed to clear highways in other areas.

<http://ow.ly/PVE1>

Nebraska

Some highways are opening. Check for details - WARNING - driving is still hazardous.

<http://www.roads.nebraska.gov/511/bulletins/bulletin.pdf>

Iowa

IADOT: Changes in travel conditions for western Iowa; 4:30 p.m. Update at: <http://bit.ly/6JYKIS>

Current Weather Forecast

Northeast Kansas, including Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area

Tonight: Areas of blowing snow and a chance of snow before midnight, then a slight chance of snow after midnight. Cloudy, with a low around 18. West wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of snow before 8am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 28. Northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 12. West wind around 10 mph.

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT

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

Light snow falling across northeast Kansas will decrease in intensity and coverage through the day. Any additional snow accumulation today will remain one inch or less. However...northwest winds of 15 to 25 mph gusting to 30 mph will continue to produce blowing and drifting of the powdery snow through the day. Travel will remain difficult and hazardous today due to the heavy snow that has fallen over the past two days. Occasional light snow and flurries will linger into tonight however little or no additional accumulation will occur after dark tonight.

There are no active winter weather advisories in effect at this time.

Greater Kansas City Metro Area

Tonight: Snow showers likely, mainly before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 21. West wind between 11 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 22 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. Total nighttime snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Sunday: A chance of snow showers before noon, then a chance for flurries. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 28. West northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 22 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 15. West northwest wind between 8 and 11 mph.

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT

Includes: ATCHISON KS-MIAMI-LINN KS-DONIPHAN-LEAVENWORTH-WYANDOTTE-JOHNSON KS-ATCHISON MO-NODAWAY-WORTH-GENTRY-HARRISON-HOLT-ANDREW-DE KALB-DAVISS-BUCHANAN-CLINTON-CALDWELL-PLATTE-CLAY-RAY-JACKSON-LAFAYETTE-CASS-JOHNSON MO-BATES-HENRY-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...ATCHISON...PAOLA...MOUND CITY...TROY...LEAVENWORTH...KANSAS CITY KS...OVERLAND PARK...OLATHE...TARKIO...ROCKPORT...MARYVILLE...GRANT CITY...ALBANY...STANBERRY...BETHANY...OREGON...SAVANNAH...CAMERON...GALLATIN...JAMESPORT...ST. JOSEPH...PLATTSBURG...KINGSTON...HAMILTON...POLO...PARKVILLE...PLATTE CITY...WESTON...LIBERTY...EXCELSIOR SPRINGS...RICHMOND...KANSAS CITY...INDEPENDENCE...LEXINGTON...CONCORDIA...RAYMORE...HARRISONVILLE...PLEASANT HILL...WARRENSBURG...BUTLER...RICH HILL...CLINTON.

Light snow falling across eastern Kansas and western Missouri will slowly decrease in intensity and coverage today. Any additional snow accumulation today or tonight should remain around one inch or less. However...westerly winds of 15 to 25 mph...gusting to 30 mph...will continue to produce blowing and drifting of the powdery snow. This will make travel difficult and hazardous today as the heavy snow that has fallen over the past two days drifts across area roadways...especially ones that run north and south. Occasional light snow and flurries will linger into tonight...however little or no additional accumulation will occur after dark.

There are no active winter weather advisories in effect at this time.

Current Road Conditions

Light snow continues to fall and/or blow throughout parts of northeast Kansas. KDOT crews are on the roadways plowing (with minor treating) on an ongoing basis and will be through the overnight hours. There still is some gusting winds, blowing snow and cold temps, so drifting is still occurring in some areas.

ROAD CONDITIONS HAVE IMPROVED...progress! Overall road conditions have recently changed for most areas from minor/no drifting to snowpacked/ice conditions. This is a favorable shift in conditions as it means there is less drifting now and provides more opportunity for KDOT crews to work on clearing the roads and keeping them clear. *See the chart below for current roadway conditions for individual northeast Kansas counties.*

There are just a few NE Kansas highways still closed (see below). Many have been reopened throughout the day due to the diligent and hard work of our KDOT crews.

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 and overnight, 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 (LV/WY) to Partly (JO) Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County)	Wet/Slush to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Atchison County	Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Brown County	Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Doniphan County	Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Douglas County	Partly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Jackson County	Drifting	Yes
Jefferson County	Drifting	Yes
Lyon County	Partly to Mostly Snowpacked Ice	Yes
Marshall County	Drifting	No
Nemaha County	Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Osage County	Mostly to Completely Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Pottawatomie County	Drifting to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Riley County	Spots Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Wabaunsee County	Drifting to Spots Snowpacked/Ice	Yes

Current Road Closures for Northeast Kansas

K-9 in Nemaha County from the K-63 junction to the Nemaha/Jackson County line is closed as of 3:55 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 26 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-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-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.

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/511traffictravel.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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