



For Northeast Kansas
8:00 a.m. CST
Saturday, March 20, 2010

Updates from around Kansas & neighboring states

Road conditions are snowpacked throughout most all of Kansas. Check the latest road conditions on any Kansas highway by calling 5-1-1 or visit <http://www.kandrive.org>.

Current National Weather Service Forecast

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

Today: Snow. High near 33. Breezy, with a north wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Total daytime snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible.

Tonight: A 50 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 25. North wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy, then gradually becoming sunny, with a high near 40. North wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 24. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY – UPDATED!

JEFFERSON-SHAWNEE-DOUGLAS-OSAGE-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...TOPEKA...LAWRENCE

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN TOPEKA HAS ISSUED A WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY FOR SNOW...WHICH IS IN EFFECT UNTIL 7 PM CDT THIS EVENING.

Timing...an additional one to four inches of snow are possible today...with areas near Topeka receiving 1 to 2 inches with higher amounts south and east.

Total snow accumulations...including snowfall from today...total snow accumulations of 4 to 7 inches are expected from the event.

Winds...north winds of 10 to 15 mph with gusts up to 30 mph will be possible early Saturday morning through Sunday morning.

Impacts...snow combined with winds through Saturday 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!

Today: Snow. High near 34. Breezy, with a north wind between 16 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 29 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. Total daytime snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Tonight: Snow likely, mainly before 1am. Cloudy, with a low around 29. North wind around 17 mph, with gusts as high as 26 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible.

Sunday: A slight chance of snow before 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 38. North northeast wind around 16 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY—UPDATED!

**ATCHISON KS-LEAVENWORTH-WYANDOTTE-JOHNSON KS-SCHUYLER-DE KALB-DAVISS-GRUNDY-SULLIVAN-ADAIR-
BUCHANAN-CLINTON-CALDWELL-LIVINGSTON-LINN MO-MACON-PLATTE-CLAY-RAY-CARROLL-CHARITON-RANDOLPH-
JACKSON-LAFAYETTE-SALINE-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...ATCHISON...LEAVENWORTH...OVERLAND
PARK...OLATHE...LANCASTER...CAMERON...GALLATIN...JAMESPORT...TRENTON...MILAN...GREEN
CITY...KIRKSVILLE...ST. JOSEPH...PLATTSBURG...HAMILTON...POLO...CHILLICOTHE...BROOKFIELD...MACON...LA
PLATA...PARKVILLE...PLATTE CITY...WESTON...LIBERTY...EXCELSIOR
SPRINGS...RICHMOND...CARROLLTON...SALISBURY...KEYTESVILLE...MOBERLY...KANSAS
CITY...INDEPENDENCE...LEXINGTON...CONCORDIA...MARSHALL**

THE WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY IS NOW IN EFFECT UNTIL 7 AM CDT SUNDAY.

Location...east central Kansas and west central Missouri...including the Kansas City metro area.

Timing...while the band of heavier snow has moved east of the region...there remains a threat for another round of accumulating snow to reform later this morning. This snowfall could last through Saturday night.

Snow accumulations...total snow accumulations of 3 to 6 inches...with locally greater amounts...will be possible by the time precipitation ends Sunday afternoon. Between 3 and 4 inches of snow has already fallen from Basehor and Leavenworth Kansas across northland of Kansas City. One to two inches of snow has been common south of the Missouri River.

Impacts...roads will remain slick and hazardous...with less traveled and rural roads snow packed and even more dangerous today. In addition...strong north winds will cause areas of blowing and drifting snow which will reduce visibilities. 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 wet/slush in Kansas City Metro Area, to partly to completely snowpacked throughout the remaining NE Kansas counties. KDOT daytime crews continue to plow and treat (salt or salt/sand mixture) all roadways as needed and will throughout the daytime hours. See the chart below for current roadway conditions for individual northeast Kansas counties.

More snow is expected throughout the day and into the evening hours. Highways, including mainline lanes, ramp areas, bridges and overpasses, are slick due to the slushy to snowpacked/icy conditions in all NE Kansas counties. Blowing snow and gusting winds are causing limited visibility at times as well as drifting in spots. DRIVERS NEED TO USE CAUTION, TAKE IT SLOW AND ALLOW FOR EXTRA TIME DURING THE DATYTIME 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 to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County)	Partly to Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Atchison County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	No
Brown County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	No
Doniphan County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	No
Douglas County	Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Jackson County	Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Jefferson County	Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Lyon County	Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Marshall County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	No
Nemaha County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	No
Osage County	Mostly to Completely Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Pottawatomie County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	No
Riley County	Mostly to Completely Snowpacked/Ice	No
Wabaunsee County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	No

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/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!

Kimberly K. Qualls
NE Kansas Public Affairs Manager
Kansas Dept. of Transportation

121 SW 21st Street

Topeka, KS 66612

P: (785) 296-3881

C: (785) 640-9340

kqualls@ksdot.org

www.ksdot.org

www.kandrive.org

Follow KDOT on Twitter (www.twitter.com):

Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area: @TopekaMetroKDOT

Kansas City Metro Area: @KansasCityKDOT

NE Kansas: @NEKansasKDOT