



**For Northeast Kansas
as of 9:30 p.m. CST
Saturday, December 26, 2009**

Updates from around Kansas & neighboring states

Oklahoma

I-35 South - Icy patches reported on I-35 in counties south of OKC. <http://ow.ly/Q0JF>

Driving lanes mostly clear on Tulsa, OKC highways. Some ramps still rough. Ice a danger in overnight hours. <http://ow.ly/Q0HL>

ODOT crews report progress on winter storm cleanup but warn of ice danger with cooler night temps. <http://ow.ly/Q0EA>

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 20 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.

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 13 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.

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

Current Road Conditions

Snow is mostly done except for some occasional flurries, plus winds have died down for the most part. There still is some gusting winds/blowing snow, so drifting may still occur in some areas overnight. KDOT crews will be on the roadways plowing and minor treating throughout the overnight hours

Road conditions continue to improve little by little. Overall road conditions have recently changed for the majority of the areas from minor/no drifting to wet/slush or snowpacked/ice. This is a favorable shift in conditions as it means there is far less drifting occurring now which provides a better 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 is just one NE Kansas highway still closed (see below) as all the rest 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	No
Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County)	Wet/Slush to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Atchison County	Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Brown County	Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Doniphan County	Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Douglas County	Spots Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Jackson County	Drifting	No
Jefferson County	Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Lyon County	Spots Snowpacked Ice	Yes
Marshall County	Drifting	No
Nemaha County	Mostly Snowpacked/Ice	No
Osage County	Wet/Slush to Spots Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Pottawatomie County	Partly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Riley County	Spots Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Wabaunsee County	Spots to Partly Snowpacked/Ice	Yes

Current Road Closures for Northeast Kansas

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.

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/511traffictrav.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