



**For Northeast Kansas
9:45 p.m. CST
Friday, March 19, 2010**

Updates from around Kansas & neighboring states

Oklahoma: Oklahoma DOT reports as of 9:00 p.m.: STATEWIDE Crews are monitoring conditions and are ready for precip. Drivers are reminded to stay alert for changing conditions

Current National Weather Service Forecast

Northeast Kansas, including Topeka/Lawrence Metro Area

Tonight: Rain and snow, becoming all snow after 10pm. Low around 29. Blustery, with a north wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Total nighttime snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

Saturday: Snow. High near 33. Breezy, with a north wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

Saturday Night: A 50 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 25. Blustery, with a north wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

WINTER WEATHER WARNING

JEFFERSON-MORRIS-WABAUNSEE-SHAWNEE-DOUGLAS-LYON-OSAGE-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF: TOPEKA, LAWRENCE, EMPORIA

A WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 7 AM CDT SUNDAY.

Timing...rain will begin late this afternoon then change over to snow during the late evening hours. Snow...locally heavy at times...will fall from late tonight through Sunday morning.

Total snow accumulations...snow accumulations of 6 to 8 inches or greater is expected.

Winds...north winds of 20 to 25 mph with gusts up to 35 mph will be possible early Saturday morning through Sunday morning.

Impacts...heavy snow combined with strong winds tonight through Sunday morning will reduce visibilities and make for hazardous travel conditions.

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

Tonight: Rain and snow, becoming all snow after 1am. Low around 30. Blustery, with a north wind between 18 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 29 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. Total nighttime snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible.

Saturday: Snow. High near 35. Breezy, with a north wind between 18 and 21 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance

of precipitation is 90%. New snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

Saturday Night: Snow likely. Cloudy, with a low around 28. Blustery, with a north wind between 16 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 28 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY

**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**

A WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY FOR SNOW REMAINS IN EFFECT FROM MIDNIGHT TONIGHT TO 1 PM CDT SUNDAY.

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

Timing...rain will begin changing over to snow in areas north of Kansas City...including St Joseph to Gallatin this evening. Initially the Kansas city area...northeast toward Chillicothe will see some heavier rain showers moving through...but a transition to snow should be taking place toward midnight. In areas to the east of Kansas City...towards Kirksville...Moberly and Macon the precipitation should spread in late this evening...with Kirksville possibly seeing snow before midnight. Areas further south in central Missouri should not see the snow until the early morning hours.

Snow accumulations...total snow accumulations of 3 to 6 inches...with locally greater amounts...will be possible by the time precipitation ends Sunday afternoon.

Impacts...roads will likely become slick and hazardous with snow tonight and Saturday. Initially the roads may be slushy...but as snow amounts increase...the roads may become snow packed during the day on Saturday making driving hazardous. In addition...strong north winds will cause areas of blowing 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 vary from normal seasonal to completely snowpacked throughout NE Kansas counties. In those counties where snow has accumulated on the roadways, KDOT nighttime crews are plowing and spot treating only (salt or salt/sand mixture) as needed. See the chart below for current roadway conditions for individual northeast Kansas counties.

Highways, including mainline lanes, ramp areas, bridges and overpasses, are going to be slick in spots due to the new snowpacked/icy conditions in those NE Kansas counties affected by the new accumulating snowfall. Blowing snow and gusting winds are causing limited visibility, SO DRIVERS NEED TO USE CAUTION, TAKE IT SLOW AND ALLOW FOR EXTRA TIME DURING THE EVENING AND 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)	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Topeka Metro Area (Shawnee County)	Mostly to Completely Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Atchison County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Brown County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Doniphan County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Douglas County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Jackson County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Jefferson County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Lyon County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Marshall County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Nemaha County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Osage County	Normal Seasonal Conditions	No
Pottawatomie County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Riley County	Mostly to Completely Snowpacked/Ice	Yes
Wabaunsee County	Completely Snowpacked/Ice	Yes

Current Road Closures for Northeast Kansas

No closed roads to report.

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!

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