What Johnson County Thinks About the Weather

Preparing for Extreme Heat, Tornadoes, and Power Outages

In Johnson County, severe weather doesn't come in just one form. A summer day can bring dangerous heat. A spring thunderstorm can produce tornadoes. And winter ice can bring down power lines. When these events happen, everyday routines are quickly disrupted, especially for households already struggling with the cost of heating or cooling their homes.



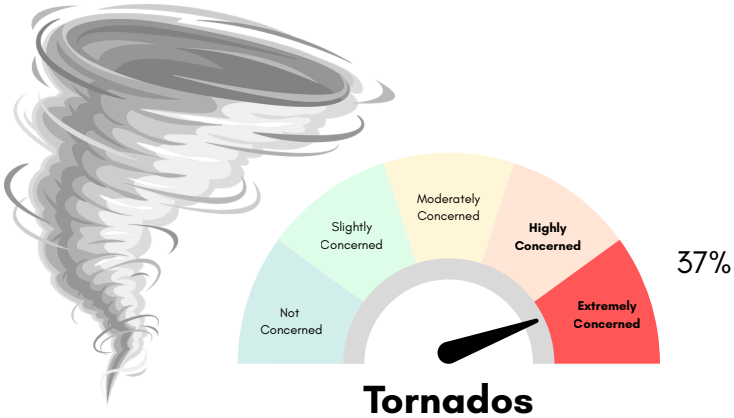
Source: Taylor Hemness/KSHB 41 News

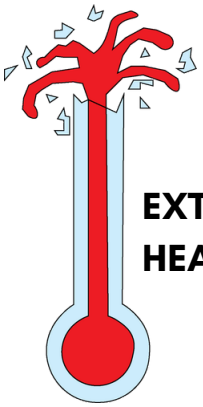
A team of Kansas scientists is looking for ways to help Kansans become resilient during severe weather. As part of this effort, they sent surveys to hundreds of residents to ask about their weather experiences.

Each county surveyed had different concerns. Here in Johnson County, the survey found that we are most concerned about extreme heat, tornadoes, power outages, and energy burden.

Here are some of the survey findings from Johnson County residents about their weather concerns and experiences.

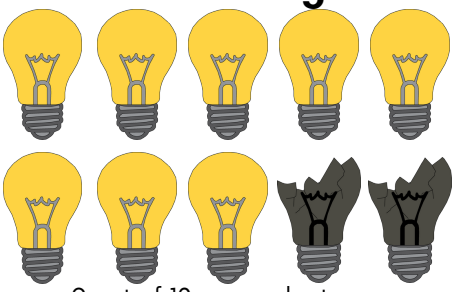
63% of respondents are concerned about tornadoes! In fact, a little more than one-third (37%) said they were **extremely concerned about tornadoes.**





Extreme heat is a concern for 66% of respondents. Extreme heat and severe storms can create overlapping challenges, especially when storms or tornadoes lead to power outages. Without electricity, staying safely cool during extreme heat can become more difficult.

Power Outages



2 out of 10 respondents are affected by power outages

Power outages are another major concern. While they may be a manageable inconvenience for many, they can cause significant hardship for those who struggle to pay their energy bills. Two out of every ten of our neighbors are affected by power outages. In such cases, these interruptions can make it impossible for them to afford basic energy needs.

Tornadoes, extreme heat, and power outages can all disrupt daily life. Losing electricity during extreme weather can make it harder to keep our homes safe and comfortable. Preparing for these challenges before they happen can help residents stay safe and strengthen our community's resilience. Here are a few steps you can take now to help keep you and your family safer.

- Stock an emergency kit with food, water, medications, flashlights, batteries, and a battery-powered radio.
- Know where to go during a tornado or other severe weather and have a family communication plan.
- Plan for power outages and extreme heat by keeping devices charged and knowing where you can safely cool down or shelter if the power is out.



Kansas scientists are searching for solutions to help residents become resilient to natural hazards.

The team's work is aimed at helping all Kansas, including rural and vulnerable communities. The goal is to find ways to help you rebound faster and suffer less from large-scale disasters.

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See our website to learn more about the 2025 survey findings: nsf@https://nsfepscor.ku.edu/surveys

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