What Seward County Thinks About the Weather

Preparing for Heatwaves, Deep Freezes and Tornadoes

Severe weather takes many forms in Seward County. Extreme summer heat, bitter cold, and tornadoes pose distinct challenges for the residents of this Southwest Kansas county, disrupting everyday routines and making it tough for families to stay safe and comfortable.



Source: KWCH 12 News

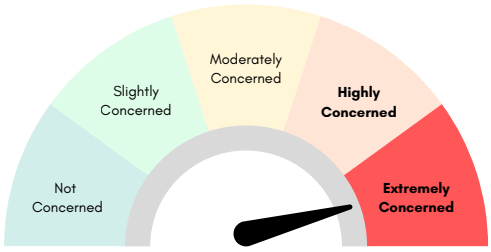
A team of Kansas scientists is looking for ways to help Kansans build resilience to severe weather.

As part of this effort, researchers surveyed thousands of residents about their weather concerns. Each Kansas county faces different challenges. Here in Seward County, residents identified **extreme heat, extreme cold, and tornadoes** as important weather concerns.

Here's how the numbers stack up for the Seward County residents who responded to the researchers' survey.

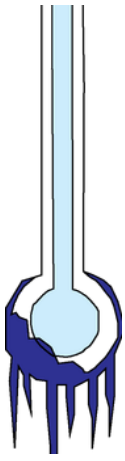
Extreme heat is of concern to most respondents (66%). Extreme cold is of concern to just over a third of respondents (37%). Tornadoes are extremely concerning to half of respondents (55%).

These findings show why preparing for both temperature extremes and sudden severe storms is an important part of building a more resilient Seward County.



Tornados

55% of respondents said they were extremely concerned about tornados.

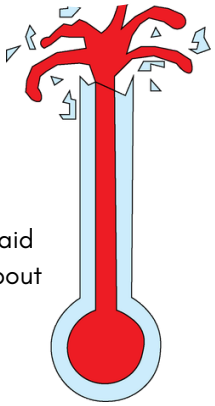


EXTREME COLD

37% of respondents said they are concerned about extreme cold.

EXTREME HEAT

66% of respondents said they are concerned about extreme heat.



Severe weather can look very different from season to season.

A dangerously hot summer day, a period of extreme cold, or a tornado can quickly change normal routines. Heatwaves and deep freezes make it harder to keep homes comfortable and safe, while tornadoes can develop quickly and require residents to know where to shelter. Preparing for different kinds of weather before they happen can help households respond when conditions change.

Being prepared for multiple types of emergencies matters. A few simple steps can help you and your family prepare:



- **Prepare for heatwaves**: Have water available and know where you can go to cool down when temperatures become dangerously hot.
- **Prepare for deep freezes:** Keep warm clothing, blankets, food, water, medications, and other emergency supplies available.
- **Prepare for tornadoes**: Know your safest shelter location and have a family communication plan in place.
- **Stay weather-aware:** Keep a reliable way to receive weather alerts and updated forecasts.

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

The team's work is aimed at helping all of 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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Contact us to view more findings from the 2025 survey: https://nsfepscor.ku.edu/surveys

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