

## Deepwater Horizon Incident, Gulf of Mexico



photo: US Coast Guard

The NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC) is on-scene in Morgan City and Scientific Support Team members are deploying to the area on Friday and Saturday. NOAA will continue to support response with oil spill trajectories, incident weather forecasts, oil fate and analysis, damage assessment, and through the full-spectrum of models and expertise required by responders.

Initial NOAA oil-spill trajectory analyses indicated that the oil should remain offshore for at least three days; however, inclement weather forecast for 23-25 Apr will impact response and recovery operations.

A Joint Information Command has been established as part of the Unified Command.

**For NOAA media inquiries please contact John Ewald or Keeley Belva at (301) 713-3066.**

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NOAA is currently on-scene, and is positioning personnel for a major response to an uncontrolled spill from a well being drilled by the Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) Deepwater Horizon. The incident that started with an explosion and fire on the deepwater semi-submersible drilling platform approximately 51 miles southeast of Venice, Louisiana. At 1030 local time (April 22) the drilling rig capsized and sank with the unburned portion of an estimated 700,000 gallons (approximately 16,700 barrels) of #2 fuel reported onboard. Crude oil and natural gas are still being released uncontrolled from the riser pipe of the well. Three attempts to shut-in the well have been unsuccessful; there will be another attempt today (22 April).



file photo