

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Overview

On April 20, 2010, at approximately 9:51 p.m. CDT, an explosion occurred on the *Deepwater Horizon* mobile offshore drilling rig located in the Gulf of Mexico, approximately 42 miles southeast of Venice, Louisiana. Immediately after the explosion, the U.S. Coast Guard initiated an intensive search and rescue effort for the 11 missing crewmembers of the *Deepwater*

CHARACTERISTICS OF A SUCCESSFUL OIL SPILL RESPONSE

Characteristic	Description
1. Mobilization	The responder's initial actions and ability to ramp up, adapt to events, and organizationally grow as needed in response to the spill event
2. Effectiveness	Proactive measures taken and mobilization of oil spill response equipment by the responder to protect the environment and minimize property damage
3. Safety	Steps taken by the responder to ensure the safety of response workers and the general public
4. Collaboration	The ability of the response organization, including a fully engaged responsible party, to rapidly integrate the diverse stakeholders and focus on a common goal
5. Transparency	The responder's ability to remain open, transparent and accessible to the public

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Figure 1: Characteristics of a Successful Oil Spill Response