



CBS NEWS POLL  
 For release: Tuesday, May 11, 2010  
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**THE OIL SPILL IN THE GULF**  
**May 6-9, 2010**

Americans view the collapse of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig site and resulting oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico as an isolated incident rather than indicative of a broader problem with offshore drilling, but there has been a drop in support for offshore drilling since the 2008 presidential campaign two years ago.

Half the public sees the current incident in the Gulf as most likely an isolated incident, while 35% think it is an indication of a broader problem with offshore drilling.

**OIL SPILL IN GULF OF MEXICO**

Isolated incident	51%
Part of broader problem	35

Most Republicans and independents view it as an isolated incident, while more Democrats think it is part of an overall problem with offshore drilling.

More than four in five Americans have heard or read at least something about the platform collapse and oil spill, including more than half who have heard or read a lot. Those paying the most attention to the story are more likely to see it as an isolated incident.

**HEARD OR READ ABOUT GULF SPILL**

A lot	56%
Some	29
Not much/nothing	14

Offshore drilling became an issue in the 2008 presidential campaign, with "drill, baby, drill" as the oft-repeated Republican chant. But overall support for offshore drilling has fallen in the years following the intensity of the presidential campaign. In this poll, 46% favor allowing increased drilling for oil and natural gas off the U.S. coastline, down from 62% during the 2008 election campaign. 41% now think the risks and costs of offshore drilling are too great, up from 28% nearly two years ago.

**INCREASED OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING?**

	Now	8/2008	7/2008
Favor	46%	62%	64%
Risks too great	41	28	28

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 This poll was conducted among a random sample of 855 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone May 6-9, 2010. Phone numbers were dialed from random digit dial samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher. This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

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q2 Would you favor allowing increased drilling for oil and natural gas off the US coast, or do you think the costs and risks are too great?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Aug08a
	%	%	%	%	%
Favor	46	63	34	45	62
Costs, risks too great	41	29	55	39	28
Don't know/No answer	13	8	11	16	10

q3 How much have you heard or read about the collapsed oil platform and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico? A lot, some, not much, or nothing at all yet?

A lot	56	66	53	52
Some	29	24	32	30
Not much	10	8	8	13
Nothing	4	2	6	4
DK/NA	1	0	1	1

q4 Do you think the recent oil platform collapse and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is most likely an isolated incident, or mostly an indication of a broader problem with offshore drilling?

Isolated incident	51	68	36	52
Broader problem	35	19	45	37
DK/NA	14	13	19	11

	<u>Unweighted</u>	<u>Weighted</u>
Total Respondents	855	
Total Republicans	245	214
Total Democrats	271	260
Total Independents	339	381

