



N° 304 E – News from September 2021

Emergency response

Cedre was contacted by the **Bouches-du-Rhône fire brigade** following a spill of formaldehyde into a pond, with a request for a list of specialised response contractors. The BSAM (French Customs Aeromarine Surveillance Brigade) in Le Havre asked Cedre to identify emissions of white smoke from the funnel of a merchant vessel. This funnel was in fact a scrubber to reduce smoke pollution. Several enquiries were received in relation to the identification of possible instances of pollution in photos: requests from **MRCC Corsen** and **AEM Guyane** (State action at sea in French Guiana) related to what appeared to be algal blooms. An enquiry was received from **AEM Méditerranée** (State action at sea in the Mediterranean) in relation to a release of fatty acid methyl esters which diluted naturally. Engineers from Cedre were sent on site to take part in 2 exercises organised by Maritime Prefectures. In Brest, the HERMINE exercise simulated a container ship casualty and the loss overboard of containers of chemicals, including some classified as hazardous. In Cherbourg, the POLHARBOR exercise involved a collision between a tanker and a container ship, resulting in an oil spill at the surface. Finally, Cedre was called upon for a MAR-ICE exercise organised by Lithuania relating to the appropriate personal protective equipment to be worn in the event of an ammonium nitrate fire on board a ship, as well as for an ICE exercise organised by Spain that focused on stabilised ethyl acrylate.

In short

Dates for the diary

► 20th October, 10 am - 1 pm (CEST): participatory workshop to seek solutions to end marine polystyrene litter, organised by **Seabird**, **UBS** and Cedre. 4th and final participatory workshop under the **OceanWise project**. Register [here](#)

Training

► 11th to 15th October: training course on oil spill response at sea and on the shoreline at Cedre

Hot off the press

► Publication of the Sri Lanka mission report

The report of the **UNEP/OCHA/DG ECHO** advisory mission in Sri Lanka, in which Cedre took part in June following the fire onboard and sinking of the *X Press Pearl*, is now [available online](#)

Online video

► Ten years on, take a look back at the *Rena* container ship incident in our latest animation on our [YouTube channel](#)

Launch of a Franco-American beach litter study

In September, Cedre embarked on a collaboration with the **The Citadel**, The Military College of South Carolina (US), to conduct a comparative study into beach litter on the East Coast of the United States and the French Atlantic coast, with a focus on the presence of COVID-19-related litter (in particular disposable face masks). This collaboration comes under a project funded by the **Global Council for Science and the Environment**. Cedre will focus particularly on providing its American partners with monitoring data obtained on the coastline of mainland France. The conclusions of the study are scheduled to be released at the end of the year.

Mission at La Mède refinery

At the beginning of the month, two engineers from Cedre visited the **La Mède refinery** to present the conclusions of a study on the behaviour of new generation biodiesels and biofeedstocks in the event of a spill. This study focused on HVO (Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil), used cooking oil and animal fat, 3 products whose behaviour was studied in the laboratory and in the Polludrome®. The tests showed that these products behave differently. While biodiesels form a floating slick that tends to disperse naturally after a few dozen hours, biofeedstocks congeal upon contact with water and form tarballs a few centimetres in diameter. Based on these results, response strategy recommendations will be able to be fine-tuned, in particular with regard to the equipment required for mechanical recovery operations.

Training course on marine litter monitoring

On 28th September, Cedre jointly organised, together with the **Agence Bretonne de la Biodiversité** (Breton Biodiversity Agency) and the **Office Français de la Biodiversité** (French Biodiversity Agency), a training course on monitoring litter on the shoreline and in the marine environment in Saint-Jean-Trolimon (Finistère), within the framework of the **RGENB network** (**Réseau des Gestionnaires d'Espaces Naturels Bretons**). The training involved more than twenty managers and members of the network who were able to put the protocols into practice in the field and share their feedback.

Training course for Naval Group University

On 7th and 8th September, Cedre ran a training course on its premises for **Naval Group University**; 9 representatives of Naval Group attended the theory and practical sessions dedicated to response to oil spills at sea and in ports.

Efficacy of biosourced products

As part of a project on the efficacy of biosourced products in pollution response, a pilot-scale efficacy test was initiated on a biodegradation agent using Cedre's shoreline test bench (tidal zone) and its man-made beach (supratidal zone). This product is already used as an organic amendment in organic farming and is composed of composted plant debris, natural minerals and molasses. Compared to liquid biodegradation agents, this product has the advantage of being in the form of pellets which, when mixed with sediment, will be subject to very little rapid leaching by the tides. In addition to this trial, this project will also be an opportunity to draw up a list of biosourced products among the sorbents already tested at Cedre.

Launch of a study on litter in rainwater drainage networks in Brest métropole

On 20th September, a Cedre-led study on litter in rainwater drainage networks in **Brest métropole** was launched. This two-year project, funded by Brest Métropole under the **Interreg Channel** Preventing Plastic Pollution project and carried out in collaboration with **IOWater**, aims to characterise the presence of litter in rainwater networks and to assess the effectiveness of retention devices (particularly nets) installed in the area. This study will provide a better understanding of litter circulation in the area's rainwater networks and offer insight into solutions to prevent its transfer to the sea.

Participation in EMSA HNS workshop

On 15th and 16th, Cedre took part in a workshop organised by **EMSA** on hazardous and noxious substances and a presentation of the **MAR-ICE network**. Two of Cedre's engineers were involved in preparing this event and gave two presentations during the workshop's four modules. The first module presented the different roles of stakeholders in the event of incidents and related future prospects, the second dealt with statistics and feedback, the third with the presentation of the MAR-ICE service and the involvement of the chemical industry. A fourth module, reserved for EU Member States, provided an opportunity to discuss the main issues and the ranking of needs by order of priority in the event of an HNS spill.

North Sea oil testing in the Polludrome®

The weathering and dispersibility of a North Sea oil was studied in Cedre's flume tank (Polludrome®) at two temperatures representative of the production site (5°C and 13°C). These tests, also conducted at laboratory scale, aimed to characterise the fate of the oil when spilt in the marine environment, in order to identify the most appropriate response techniques according to the degree of weathering, and to produce data to input into the main behaviour modelling software programmes (physical characteristics and detailed chemical composition).

Practical training for civil protection personnel

In order to reinforce the skills of their personnel in the response to major oil spills on land and in water bodies, the **French civil protection units** UIISC 1 and UIISC 7 ran an essentially practical training course at our facilities from 27th to 30th September for a dozen of their representatives. This course, designed to provide concrete and practical knowledge of response strategies, techniques and equipment, was also an opportunity for numerous discussions and sharing of experience with these agents who are involved in managing major risks, protecting people, and safeguarding property and the environment, both in France and abroad.

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