



Cedre NEWSLETTER

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Emergency Response

On 13 July, the local authorities of Les Landes called upon the Emergency Response Department following the observation of drifting slicks from the coast, which proved to be of organic origin (microalgae), during reconnaissance surveys carried out by boat. A field mission was conducted by a member of the EPIF team from 26 to 28 July, following the detection of sheen in a port on the north coast of Brittany as well as near to the neighbouring beaches, resulting in the temporary closure of these beaches. The aims of this mission, performed within the framework of the convention between the Côtes d'Armor General Council and Cedre, were to contribute to land and sea surveys, to the determination of the probable source of this sheen, to sampling (with analysis in Cedre's laboratory) as well as to the definition of response techniques. Cedre was also called upon to provide information following the incident involving German container ship *Hansa Brandenburg* which caught fire off the coast of Mauritius as well as on the management and treatment procedures for sodium hypochlorite which was part of the cargo. On 23 July, an agent was sent to Crete to take part in an exercise involving an oil tanker, polluting Natura 2000 reserves. This exercise did not involve the deployment of teams on site. Finally, in August, research was carried out on the type and risks relating to hazardous materials following a road accident involving a lorry carrying such substances.

In short

Dates for the diary

- ▶ **RESEARCHERS' NIGHT**, 27 September at Océanopolis - Brest, 7 pm to midnight
- ▶ **INTERSPILL 2015**, 24-26 March 2015 Amsterdam, Netherlands
- ▶ **Arcopol + Conference**, Creating a Toolkit for Effective Maritime Incident Response. Communications, Resources and Planning - 11 & 12 September 2013 at Cardiff School of Management

GI WACAF workshop in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

Within the framework of **GI WACAF**, **IMO** and **IPIECA** organised the first workshop/exercise, in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy (MPEM), designed to test and improve the national oil and chemical spill contingency plan for the Islamic Republic of Mauritania (POLMAR Plan), developed by Cedre in 2002. Over 70 public and private participants took part in a theory course, a tabletop exercise and a large-scale practical exercise with the deployment of personnel and equipment belonging to the harbour authority, civil protection and an oil operator in Nouakchott for 2.5 days from 30 June to 4 July. The various lectures and training sessions were run by national experts and an engineer from the Contingency Planning Department at Cedre, consultant to **IMO/IPIECA** within the framework of the **GI WACAF** project. The specific goals of this workshop were readily achieved with the training of key players in the organisational and operational principles of response to oil and chemical spills: substance behaviour, response at sea, response on land, information gathering, decision support systems and communication. The collaboration between industry and government was remarkable and contributed to the success of this workshop/exercise which shall provide the Mauritanian government, once the plan has been updated according to the recommendations resulting from this workshop, with an efficient, operational preparedness and response set-up.

Training for ITOPF and Perenco Cameroon

- From 2nd to 5th July, 15 technical advisers and managers from **ITOPF** attended a training course at Cedre including technical exchanges, incident feedback, a presentation of Cedre's R&D tools and projects and a day and a half of practical exercises with oil release.
- Upon request by Perenco Cameroon, two trainers from Cedre ran a practical training course in shoreline response in Douala from 16 to 19 July. At this course, 16 participants were trained in the organisation and implementation of containment, recovery and shoreline clean-up operations. The course was completed by exercises in the deployment of locally available equipment. A second course is scheduled on site for October.

Trials on the oleophilic skimmer Elastec TDS 118

Upon request by **CETMEF**, the oleophilic grooved drum skimmer Elastec TDS 118 was tested at our facilities in July. These trials, conducted on 4 different oils, measured the performance of this small skimmer in near-real conditions.

Blow Out trials

As part of the Blow Out project, co-funded by CITEPH and led by Alyotech Technologies, *Cedre* carried out methane and nitrogen gas release trials in its basin, in collaboration with the *Ecole des Mines d'Alès*. The aim of these trials was two-fold: to characterise the state of the water surface above the gas release (variations in water level) and to monitor the formation and then the movement of the gas cloud. Once the experimental data has been processed, the results will be used to validate the computer model Blow Out developed to forecast the fate of gas bubbles accidentally released into the aquatic environment from an underwater pipeline or an offshore industrial site.

TOSCA project closure meeting

The European project TOSCA (Tracking Oil Spills & Coastal Awareness network) is a project funded as part of the European MED programme. The closure meeting was held in Toulon by the French maritime authority for the Mediterranean on 10 July. This was the opportunity to present the project partners with the results obtained, in particular in terms of the improvement of pollutant slick drift forecasts based on improved algorithms and suitable observation equipment (buoys and HF coastal radar). The meeting was attended by many local authorities and representatives of organisations involved in spill response in the Mediterranean such as REMPEC and the secretariat of the RAMOGE Agreement. *Cedre*, which received a visit from the project's scientific coordinator back in February (see [Newsletter n° 210](#)), was represented by its Director. A visit of the Toulon naval base and in particular the spill response equipment stockpile was also organised in the afternoon.

Preparatory meeting for the September 2013 Environmental Conference

The Director in charge of Water and Biodiversity under the Ministry of Ecology organised a second preparatory meeting for the September Environmental Conference round table on marine biodiversity and protection of the sea and oceans on 22 July at the Hôtel de Roquelaure. *Cedre* was invited to this event and was represented by its Director (see [Newsletter n° 214](#)).

Quality/Environment management system certification

As part of its effort to continually improve the satisfaction of its partners and clients and to protect the environment, *Cedre* is certified ISO 9001: 2008 "Quality Management" since 2003 and ISO 14001: 2004 "Environmental Management" since 2006. Following a 12-monthly external audit in late June, the certification of these two management systems was renewed, thus rewarding the team's ongoing efforts to produce high quality work together with a proactive environmental approach.

POLMAR zone contracts

As part of the advance public POLMAR-Land contracting procedures for the ten French coastal departments of the Western Defence and Safety Zone, the business consultation period came to a close in mid-June. The State services in charge of these procedures, with assistance from *Cedre*, evaluated the applications and offers received over the summer period. This appraisal may be completed by requests for further details from certain applicants. Following validation by the authorities, notification of the framework agreements is expected to be given to successful applicants by the end of 2013. Any lots left unallocated at the end of this procedure could give rise to a new consultation.

Canada: train explosion and pollution of the Chaudière River in Quebec

On 6th July, 72 tank cars containing light crude oil derailed in the centre of the town of Lac-Mégantic, killing around fifty people. According to the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, one of the employees may not have correctly set the train's brakes. To make matters worse, an oil spill was caused, with 100,000 to 120,000 litres being spilt over around 120 km in the Chaudière River which flows from Lac-Mégantic to the Saint Lawrence River. Pumping operations began on 7th July and protective systems were set up around fresh water supply points.

Pollution in the Philippines

In Manila Bay, on 8th August, around 500,000 litres of oil spread over around 20 km, affecting 15 % of the bay. The bay is a source of income for tens of thousands of fishermen. Rosario, the first town affected, was declared a "state of calamity". According to the authorities, the oil tanker *M/T Makisig* could have been the cause of the spill, but divers discovered leaks from a subsea pipeline near Rosario. In addition, on the night of 16 August, a collision between a cargo ship and a ferry killed at least 52 people. The ferry *St Thomas Aquinas* sank near the port of Cebu with 120,000 litres of fuel on board. A quarter of its fuel was released, polluting many fishing areas. This incident is thought to have been caused by a human error.