



N° 222 E – News from March 2014

Emergency response

In March, *Cedre's* response centre was involved in two incidents which required two engineers to be sent on-site, one to Brennilis (Finistère) concerning a diesel leak and the other to Combrit (Finistère) relating to a spill of heating oil. In both cases, the natural aquatic environment (freshwater in the first case and freshwater/seawater in the second) was at risk but ultimately suffered little impact thanks to the use of sorbent booms and loose sorbents. "Custom-made" barriers were also built on-site using wire mesh and loose sorbents, based on techniques developed by teams from *Cedre*.

Other calls requiring assistance from the response centre involved:

- a false alert on a beach in Erquy (Côtes-d'Armor) where strips of very black soil had been uncovered from under pebbles by the spring tides. This was in fact old organic matter.
- the **PPE** required to clean up the banks of a river polluted by heavy fuel oil in eastern France.
- a hazardous chemical, dibromocynoacetamide, spilt on land due to a road accident. A **MSDS** was sent to the inquirer together with *Cedre's* advice.

In short

RECRUITMENT

► *Cedre* is recruiting an **engineer** specialised in "spill preparedness and response". Permanent position based in Brest. Application deadline: 16th April 2014.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- **AMOP 2014**, 3 - 5 June, Alberta, Canada
- **IOSC 2014**, 5 - 8 May 2014, Savannah, Georgia, USA
- **INTERSPILL 2015**, 24 - 26 March 2015, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Training courses

March marks the start of our annual programme of training courses. The first training session on "Aerial observation of pollution at sea" was held from the 17th to the 19th on our premises for 16 pilots from the naval aviation and customs. On the 31st, the first session of the "Maritime pollution crisis management" course began, with 14 participants. Several tailor-made sessions were also run in March. The first, held at *Cedre* on the 11th March for 21 students from **ENSAM**, focused on response strategies and case studies. The second, from the 18th to the 21st, at Lamentin refinery (Martinique) for 13 **SARA** employees, was a practical course on response techniques in industrial and port areas. The final session focused on aerial observation and on-land reconnaissance of pollution. It was organised on the premises of Martinique's Maritime Directorate (DM) in Fort-de-France for 27 personnel from customs, **DEAL**, **DGSCGC**, the maritime port of Fort-de-France, the Maritime Directorate (ULAM, maritime affairs coastal units, and **MRCC**) and the *Gendarmerie*.

Educational website on chemical pollution hits 1 year milestone!

Chemical shipping has been rapidly growing for several years. International trade of chemicals has more than tripled in 20 years. With this as a backdrop, in 2009 *Cedre* and Transport Canada launched a project on the theme of chemical spills at sea. This month we celebrated the one-year milestone of the website www.chemical-pollution.com developed through this project. Since its release in early 2013, the content of the website has evolved with, for instance, the addition of information on recent incidents such as the **MOL Comfort** and **MSC Flaminia**. A **News** page, created using the curation tool Scoop.it, has just been added. Readers are kept up-to-date with worldwide events related to chemical pollution, through articles selected by *Cedre*. The website's traffic statistics show that it is consulted from many countries across the globe, mainly in Europe, North America and Australia.

Canadian expert panel

On Monday 24th March, we received a group of experts tasked by Transport Canada with reviewing the Canadian regime in terms of preparedness, response and compensation in the event of a ship-source spill. Their first report on oil spills was submitted in December 2013. The expert panel is now focusing on LNG and other HNS. It began its investigations in Europe with a visit to *Cedre*. This visit was an opportunity for the panel to understand *Cedre's* missions as well as to see around our facilities and experimental equipment. Their report is due to be completed by September 2014.

Marine pollution workshop in La Rochelle

On 6th and 7th March, *Cedre* took part in the 5th international marine pollution workshop organised by **EIGSI**. This workshop, run as part of the ISDAMP project (Improvements of Shorelines Defences Against Marine Pollution), was the chance for *Cedre* to present the training materials developed as part of two other European projects to which it greatly contributed – **ARCOPOL** (2008-2011) and **POSOW** (2012-2013).

Offshore Arabia Conference and Exhibition

From 3rd to 5th March, *Cedre* took part in the annual **Offshore Arabia** conference and exhibition held in Dubai. Around forty exhibitors from the oil industry and some thirty speakers took part in the event. *Cedre* presented the studies that can be conducted on crude oils to determine the applicable response techniques and their integration in contingency planning.

Moscow: Petromask meeting

An engineer from *Cedre*, accompanied by two representatives of the Norwegian firm *Akvaplan Niva* and three representatives of *Total Fluides* (Paris), spent two days in Moscow on 26th and 27th March in order to meet scientists from the Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO) in charge of assessing the ecotoxicity of the chemicals synthesised and used by industry. This visit was the opportunity to meet Professor Albert T. Lebedev, head of the Organic Chemistry and Analysis Department at Lomonosov Moscow State University, to discuss the possibility of collaboration on the theme of marine dispersants. The discussions resulted in the definition of a research programme, involving the various institutes represented. This programme is set to be launched by 2015 and aims at studying the impact of chemically dispersed oil on Arctic marine organisms.

25 years on...

On 24th March 1989, the oil tanker *Exxon Valdez* grounded on Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound in Alaska, spilling 40,000 tonnes of light crude oil in what became the most expensive and most media-covered oil spill in history at that time. *Cedre* was involved and contributed to response operations. It accompanied the French Secretary of State in charge of the Environment on site, provided operational advisory services to Exxon and contributed to the dispatch of equipment including 8 recovery barges and 200 high pressure cleaners. Today, there are still traces of this disaster on certain beaches and it is far from forgotten by local inhabitants.

Heavy fuel oil spill in the port of Houston (Texas)

The Houston Ship Channel was closed to both inbound and outbound traffic following a collision on the 22nd between the bulk carrier *Summer Wind* and an oil barge transporting heavy fuel oil. A breach was made in the barge and around 640 tonnes of oil was released. Representatives of the Coast Guard and of both federal and local agencies concerned rapidly took action in order to implement the response at sea (containment and recovery) and to protect sensitive areas. On the 23rd, oil began to reach various points along the shores of Texas, with the south-west coast of the State being affected from the 27th. The same day, the remaining fuel oil was pumped from the barge, which was then towed to a shipyard for repairs. The ship channel was reopened in stages from the 25th, but clean-up operations continued to be conducted.

[Unsubscribe from the Cedre Newsletter](#)

Think green - don't print out your emails!

[Legal information](#)

[Contact us](#)