



N° 223 E – News from April 2014

Emergency response

In April, *Cedre* was involved in the response to several incidents in rivers: a polymer leak in the Creuse area, a leak from a heating oil tank at a home in the Calvados area, a leak of hydraulic oil in Seine-et-Marne and finally a leak of aromatic solvents in this same department. For each incident, the duty engineer provided the fire brigade handling the incident with advice on the measures to be taken (sorbent booms, bank clean-up, recovery techniques for pollutant in the river bed, pumping...).

As part of an **ICE** exercise, *Cedre* activated the Spanish focal point. We also took part, remotely, in an exercise on the Loire, run by the Loire-Atlantique Defence and Civil Protection Department, involving a spill of turpentine, and responded to an enquiry on pollution markers for a Paris fire brigade exercise.

In short

TRAINING

- ▶ Maritime pollution crisis management course from 31st March to 3rd April, 14 participants
- ▶ Practical shoreline response course from 7th to 11th April, 20 participants

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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

Cedre Information Day

The 2014 *Cedre* Information Day was held on the 1st April at the *Direction de l'Eau et de la Biodiversité* in Paris. Some sixty participants attended the series of conferences on the theme of accidental pollution by HNS. After an introductory session based on a statistical review by *Cedre* of major incidents having occurred since 1998, various initiatives liable to provide operational data in place in France and Europe were presented: the **Transaid** network, **CASU** and the **MAR-ICE** network. The afternoon was devoted to the presentation of recent incidents and studies conducted in the field of chemical pollution. *Cedre* presented several risk assessments and various research projects aiming to assess the behaviour of a substance spilt at sea. In addition, the efforts made in Canada to develop preparedness for HNS spills were highlighted. The Information Day was closed by a representative from the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment who presented their management of the incident involving the container ship *MSC Flaminia*. The feedback from this Information Day was highly positive... and we'll be back again in 2015 for the 20th edition! All of the presentations are available on the [Cedre website](#).

Response products: a new listing

A list of universal sorbents with "a water and oil sorption capacity expressed in weight greater than 1" has been drawn up. These non-hydrophobic products are mainly designed for use on land and on the decks of vessels. The full list of universal sorbents tested and validated by *Cedre* is available on [our website](#).

Contingency plans

Pollumar Plan: CIAPOL, the Ivory Coast spill response centre, commissioned *Cedre* to revise and update its national Pollumar plan (contingency plan in case of accidental pollution at sea, in lagoons and in coastal areas). Two engineers were sent to Abidjan on an initial assignment from 9th to 18th April, in order to meet the various stakeholders, collect the necessary information and run a national workshop. This is a year-long project.

CONGOREP assignment: as part of the development of an oil spill contingency plan for CONGOREP, two engineers were sent to Pointe-Noire from 7th to 11th April. The aims of this on-site assignment were to visit the facilities covered by the plan, review the spill response equipment available and collect the data required to implement this project. The final plan is scheduled to be delivered in October.

Total E&P CONGO: *Cedre* carried out an assignment in the Republic of the Congo from 21st to 25th April, in order to visit the facilities and collect the data required to develop a contingency plan.

Training courses

Polmar 29: this month, the delocalised **ORSEC POLMAR**-Land training courses resumed in the coastal departments of France. The **DDTM** for Finistère organised the first of these courses, on 3rd April at the POLMAR stockpile in Brest, for 30 participants. As is now the tradition, the course was run jointly, with presentations made by the Prefecture, DDTM, **Cerema**, the POLMAR stockpile and *Cedre*.

DREAL course: two engineers took part in the training day run by the POLMAR environmental expertise network in Boulogne-sur-Mer by DREAL Nord-Pas-de-Calais for the region's two departments. The day was devoted to various presentations on the French pollution response regime ORSEC POLMAR, the role of environmental expertise and the management of volunteers, as well as a simulation exercise in Cap d'Alprech. This fourth edition, targeted towards POLMAR-Land experts, gathered around thirty participants.

IPIECA's 40th anniversary and Oil Spill Working Group meeting

IPIECA celebrated its 40th anniversary in London with a week of events from 31st March to 4th April. This was the chance to bring together all the thematic working groups run by the organisation, as well as to mark the event with an official celebration and hold the general assembly. *Cedre* attended the Oil Spill Working Group meeting on 1st April. This meeting was the opportunity to review the various initiatives backed by IPIECA in terms of oil spill preparedness and response and to discuss future actions to be implemented. The points which gave rise to the most debate were those relating to actions in East Africa and in the Mediterranean.

HSE meeting for Total E&P subsidiaries and FOST open day

Total's Exploration and Production branch brought together the **HSE** officers/spill response coordinators of all its subsidiaries worldwide for an exchange seminar. *Cedre* contributed to this event by giving a presentation on incidents at sea, on land and on the coastline having resulted in marine pollution, focusing on the specificities of each incident and the consequences in terms of organisation. In addition, *Cedre*, alongside many partners of Total and the Fast Oil Spill Team (FOST), also attended the equipment demonstrations organised by **FOST** in Saumaty harbour in Marseille. FOST, an environmental interest group belonging to Total, has a long-standing agreement with the Marseille's Navy Firefighters Battalion, with four marines permanently seconded to the centre located in Rognac (Bouches-du-Rhône). Its vocation is to respond to oil spills in surface waters, on behalf of Total or other operators (transporters or energy companies) who request their intervention.

Petroleum Environmental Research Forum meeting

From 13th to 15th April, an engineer from *Cedre* was sent to Doha (Qatar) to take part in the **PERF** meeting. This meeting, organised by ConocoPhillips, was held at Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP). The participants learned about the research activities of the various oil companies hosted by QSTP. Several conferences were presented on issues such as produced water treatment, carbon sequestration and the preservation of the whale shark in the Persian Gulf. The meeting finished with a visit of the Total, ExxonMobil, Maersk and ConocoPhillips research centres. The final visit aimed to raise awareness of the problem of the overconsumption of water by Qataris, who do not pay for their water supply.

OSInet group meeting in Hamburg

For 10 years now, an intercalibration round robin has been held annually in the field of oil identification in the environment. These ring tests are conducted according to the procedure defined and continually improved by the OSInet group, which gathers laboratories from **Bonn Agreement** member countries as well as countries from all across the globe (Brazil, China, South Korea...). This group meets annually to continue to unify methods and gather feedback on the annual exercise. In 2013, the ring test was organised by the Swedish National Laboratory of Forensic Science, SKL. This year, the meeting was held from 23rd to 25th April at the German Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency BSH in Hamburg.

Illegal discharge off Le Havre: call for a €150,000 fine

On 18th September 2013, a slick of an oily substance was detected by a French Customs helicopter outside of the port of Antifer (Le Havre), in the wake of the chemical tanker *Maria Theresa*. On 16th April 2014, Le Havre court called for a €150,000 fine for the captain and ship owner, for deliberate pollution. Six environmental associations filed claims. The case is under deliberation and the decision has been deferred until 26th May. This type of offence is increasingly rare. The efforts of the competent authorities to combat illegal discharge are paying off, with the observation, denunciation and punishment of this form of pollution. The last case of this type mentioned in the *Cedre* Newsletter dates back to **June 2013**.

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