



Cedre NEWSLETTER

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Emergency response

This month, the Emergency Response Department received several requests for information concerning the MARPOL classification of chemicals, certain regulatory aspects as well as examples of spills and calculation methods.

We of course followed, from a distance, the operations conducted by the Irish Coast Guard and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency due to the spill of fuel during the refuelling of a Russian aircraft carrier. For the first time, the alert was raised by CleanSeaNet (with transmission of a satellite image of the area).

In terms of incidents at sea, we sent information to the Mediterranean maritime authorities concerning ammonium nitrate, the cargo carried by a Russian vessel in difficulty, and provided the Atlantic maritime authorities with the details of the owner and contents of a container recovered at sea.

We also advised a company on rinsing methods for pipes, to complete the clean-up of a site in French Guiana where a spill occurred in January.

Finally, two operational fire and rescue centres (CODIS) questioned us: one concerning a spill in a river and the other following a spill in a laboratory.

Visit from Secretary of State Chantal Jouanno

Following a visit to the Marine Protected Areas Agency and the Iroise Marine Natural Park, the Secretary of State for Ecology, Mrs Chantal Jouanno, visited *Cedre* on the afternoon of 12 February. *Cedre's* activities were presented to her and she showed a keen interest in the subjects addressed, and in particular in *Cedre's* ability to respond rapidly in an emergency.



Press conference - © Cedre

ITOPF - Cedre meeting

On 11 February, ITOPF received a delegation from *Cedre* at its London office for a meeting to exchange on topics of common interest. This productive day of meetings resulted in the identification of several possible strategies for the reinforcement of cooperation in areas where the respective roles of ITOPF and *Cedre* are complementary.

Response product validation

Two new floating sorbents, "HY810" (sorbent boom) and "HY4050XL" (sheet sorbent) for use at sea or on inland waters, have been approved by *Cedre's* laboratory for the company EUROSORB. The list of approved sorbent products can be seen at www.cedre.fr, in the Response/Pollution response products section.

In short

VISITS

► On 10th, the Secretary General of the Sea accompanied by the Deputy Maritime Prefect for the Atlantic.

► On 16th, the Director of sustainable development and the environment for the TOTAL group and his staff.

► On 25th, the Director of ENSIETA accompanied by laboratory managers and teachers from the ENSIETA school of engineering.

TRAINING

► From 10 to 12 February, training course in Nice on response in ports and harbours, for representatives of the Conseil Général des Alpes-Maritimes, the pilot station and the Nice port authorities, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the departmental fire brigade and the police of Villefranche-sur-Mer. 22 participants.

► From 24 to 26 February, CNFPT (Centre National de la Fonction Publique Territoriale) course for municipalities of the Mediterranean coastline. 18 participants.

DATES FOR THE DIARY INTERSPILL 2009

There is still time to take advantage of the early bird rates when registering for the conference and exhibition INTERSPILL 2009. Full rates will apply after 20 March.
www.interspillage.com

France: Contingency plan for the Normandy refinery

In the second half of 2008, the TOTAL refinery in Normandy contracted *Cedre* to draw up the contingency plan for the pollution response part of its maritime contingency plans. This plan, established in accordance with the Corapol methodological guidelines on the preparation of pollution contingency plans, was validated in December 2008. As part of a subsequent phase, it appeared necessary to organise a training scheme for the refinery personnel, as the only concrete way of approving the organisation proposed in the plan, the strategies adopted as well as equipment acquisition and deployment procedures. In total, over 45 participants were or are to be trained in the management of the refinery's pollution contingency plan, through seven theory-based training sessions run on site, by *Cedre*, on 11, 12, 16, 17, 18 and 19 February, the last session being due to be held on 24 March. Other sessions focusing on technical aspects have been scheduled for April and May, with an aim to providing sixty-odd participants with practical knowledge of the organisation of a response worksite, response techniques suitable for the refinery's site as well as the response equipment available at the refinery.

Training in Cannes

A two-day training course was led by *Cedre* in Cannes on 17 and 18 February, upon request from the company Lyonnaise des Eaux. Eighteen agents from the member companies of the "marine pollution response group" coordinated by the maritime environment department of the Provence-Alpes-Côtes-d'Azur regional delegation of Lyonnaise des Eaux were thus trained in response techniques in ports and harbours.

EMSA: a new contract notice

The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) has issued a new contract notice for oil spill response services in the northern Baltic Sea and the Atlantic/Channel coastal area (European Continental coastline from Le Havre to Bordeaux and southern coast of Great Britain from Falmouth to Eastbourne). The 2009 procurement contract procedure will be similar to that of the previous contracts. The documents relating to this service contract notice are available on the EMSA website (www.emsa.europa.eu), in the "Procurement" section, see "Invitation to Apply: NEG/01/2009".

China: chemical pollution of drinking water

Yancheng city was forced to cut off the water supply to 200,000 inhabitants for 7 hours on 2 March, due to the illegal release of phenol into a river by a chemical plant. The director and deputy director of the district's environment bureau were immediately dismissed by the mayor, who has promised, by the end of the month, the closure of 33 chemical plants located too near to the water inlet for the city's water supply.

Dubai: collision and fire

Conditions were foggy in the Persian Gulf on 10 February when the Singapore-registered container ship *Sima Saman* collided with the Maltese chemical tanker *Kashmir* near Jebel Ali Port, despite the presence of pilots onboard both vessels. A tank of the chemical tanker, filled with condensates, was damaged and a fierce fire broke out. The fire was extinguished and the vessel surrounded with booms. No significant pollution was reported.

Irish Sea: heavy fuel oil or deck wash-down?

Much ink has been spilt over the nature and extent of the oil spill which occurred during the refuelling of the Russian aircraft carrier *Admiral Kuznetsov* in the Irish Sea on 14 February (see "Emergency response" article). First estimated at 500 tonnes of fuel oil by the Irish Coast Guard, then later adjusted to 522 tonnes in 3 distinct slicks, the spill reached up to 1,000 tonnes in certain press articles. As for the Russians, on 2 March, a delegation was sent to Ireland to discuss the spill, reportedly offering their full cooperation, accompanied by the promise of samples being provided. Initially claimed by the Russian navy to be an incident caused simply by the "cleaning" of the flight deck, by the end of discussions this spill had become a refuelling incident involving 20 to 30 tonnes of fuel. Let's just wait and see...

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