



Cedre NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication
by the Centre of Documentation, Research and
Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution

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On 1st of January, we turned the page
on Cedre's first 30 years.

The Cedre Newsletter wishes you a happy new year.

Emergency response

The beginning of the month was marked by the arrival of tar balls and patties on the Loire-Atlantique and Vendée shoreline. An agent from Cedre was sent onsite to take samples and to contact the local government and authorities. Criminal Investigation Officers took samples for legal purposes. Analyses showed that the tar balls all came from the same source, which remains unknown today despite backtrack drift predictions conducted by Météo France. The PAH content showed that it is neither the heavy fuel oil from the *Erika* nor that of the *Prestige*, nor is it a re-emergence of the spill at Donges in 2008.

On the 10th, 2 members of the EPIF team were sent to Le Havre to advise the companies in charge of cleaning up riprap and a water body following a small spill of crude oil.

On 14th, the Navy Commissariat for Reunion Island contacted us in connection with a spill of vegetable oil. Four days later, 700 m3 of molasses were released at sea through the sewer system following the rupture of a storage tank.

Finally, on the 21st, we were placed on pre-alert by REMPEC for the shipwrecking of a vessel transporting livestock 10 miles off Tripoli (Lebanon), in waters 1600 m deep. In addition to the thousands of cattle, 40 victims perished in this accident. The over 200-metre vessel had a capacity of over 2,800 tonnes of heavy fuel oil. However, as the vessel had come from Uruguay, the bunkers must have been nearly empty.

We also contributed to 2 exercises: one involved a breach in a domestic fuel oil tank in Lorient and the other a spill of heavy fuel oil on a wharf for an oil company based in the Mediterranean.

In short

DATES FOR THE DIARY

► The Cedre Information Day 2010 will be held on **Thursday 11 March** at **INHES**. The chosen theme is "**Pollution response equipment stockpiles**" The programme is available [here](#)

MEETINGS

► On 3rd, visit from the General Director of the Spanish Merchant Navy and the Director of SASEMAR who had signed the Biscaye Plan and Lion Plan at the *Préfecture Maritime* for the Atlantic that very morning

► On 4th, visit from a delegation of the Korean Environment Management Corporation

► On 10th, biennial meeting of AEM Brest, COM Brest, CEPPOL and Cedre at the *Préfecture Maritime* for the Atlantic

► On 15th, delegation from the Chemistry and Logistics branches of Areva group

► On 16th, annual meeting on the convention between Météo France and Cedre, in Paris

► On 17th, participation in 2 working group meetings for the implementation of the "Grenelle de la Mer" summit commitments

TRAINING

► From 7th to 11th, ORSEC - Polmar Land crisis management course at Cedre, 16 participants

HOT OFF THE PRESS

► By Editions Quae Brest: *Atlas thématique de l'environnement marin du Pays basque et du sud des Landes*

► The Cedre Chemical Response Guide on Unleaded Gasoline has just been released in English www.cedre.fr

Meeting of the Board of Governors and a change of President for Cedre

The meeting of Cedre's board of governors and its general assembly were held in Paris on 15 December. During these meetings, the re-election of the board officers was on the agenda. Cedre thus now has a new chairman, Mr François Cuillandre, Mayor of Brest and President of Brest Métropole Océane, who takes over from Mr Pierre Maille, President of the Conseil Général du Finistère, who was chairman of Cedre for 12 years.

Crisis communication training course

The very first session of the course on crisis communication in the event of a pollution incident was held at Cedre from 2 to 4 December. This training course is intended for those in charge of response operations, who are not professionals in communication but are liable to be required to communicate with the media in a crisis situation. The training course was run by Cedre with support from an experienced journalist. It was the opportunity for the 6

participants to understand how the media work, to benefit from feedback from communications officers involved in recent spills, to practise writing press releases and to simulate phone and television interviews. A personalised debriefing was carried out for each of these exercises. This course is on offer again in the 2010 *Cedre* training programme.

REMPEC - Cedre - Customs course in Morocco

An engineer from the Training Department, in cooperation with the French Customs' pollution expert and a representative of REMPEC, ran a training course on aerial observation of pollution in Morocco. This two and a half day course, organised and funded by REMPEC, was held from 15 to 17 December at the Royal Moroccan Air Force base in Salé. It gathered together around 15 participants from the Royal Moroccan Air Force, the Moroccan Royal Gendarmerie and the Royal Moroccan Navy. The sessions focused on legislation (with a presentation of the French experience and practices in other countries) as well as technical aspects.

EDF course in French Guiana

Upon request by EDF Guyane, the Caribbean delegate and the head of the Training Department ran two two-and-a-half day training sessions from 14 to 18 December at the Dégrad-des-Cannes power plant, for the production teams of different Guianan units. Fifteen people were thus trained in oil spill response on land, recovery in storm drainage systems and in storm tanks as well as response in inland waters.

Maritime ORSEC plan for the Antilles

Following the publication of the Maritime ORSEC plan for the Antilles region (prefectural order n° 09-03565 of 29/09/09), an exercise "Mécanisation 09" was organised by AEM in the Antilles in the bay of Fort-de-France on 8 December. Deployment operations were carried out involving the containment, recovery and storage means belonging to the Navy, with support from SNSM and SOMARA. Following this exercise, upon request from AEM, an information session on aerial observation of pollution was run on 9 December by the Caribbean delegate, in cooperation with the Coast Guards regional delegation's pollution expert. This session gather a dozen pilots from Air Base 365, the aerial department of the National Gendarmerie and the Coast Guards regional directorate.

Sorbent approved by Cedre's laboratory

The sorbent ENV200-M, reference n°AF-06-25, for SPC International, has been added to the list of sorbent products for use at sea or on inland waters approved by Cedre's laboratory. The complete list is available at www.cedre.fr

Public environment information portal

The portal www.toutsurlenvironnement.fr produced following the *Grenelle de l'environnement* summit to provide information from State services, local government and organisations with a public service mission is now online. The subjects addressed are varied (waste management, water quality, air pollution, consumption...) and are presented in different forms (web pages, tables of statistics, databases, images, maps, videos...). Many of Cedre's publications are referenced by the portal under the theme of accidental water pollution.

Ineris: new version of the chemical substances portal

The chemical substances portal has had a makeover. Toxicology, environmental risks, economic issues, the website created in 2003 continues to present Ineris' expertise. However the new and improved version now has a single search engine for all the information presented, which can be accessed using the substance's name or its CAS number. To find out more see www.ineris.fr/substances.

Russia and the US: serial pipeline leaks

In the US, a leak from the Anchorage pipeline occurred during the night of 29 November, on a branch transporting crude oil, water and natural gas. Some 250 m3 of oil and oiled water polluted 800 m2 of tundra under heavy snow. The pipeline operator, BP, took charge of clean-up operations, mobilising a team of around 100 people for complex operations: with temperatures of around -15°C, the oil and oiled water froze at the surface as soon as they were spilt and formed clusters which remained liquid inside. In Russia, a rupture on the Druzshba pipeline, which transports oil from the Samara region to Europe, occurred on 3 December, 90 km south-west of the city of Lipetsk, causing a spill of 50 to 200 m3 of crude oil according to sources. The pollutant spread on land, but did not reach the nearby Vorgol River, which had been protected by response booms. A workforce of 120 men was mobilised to clean up the oiled ground. On 2 December, a pipe rupture on the North Slope network, also operated by BP, caused a spill of around 40 m3 of drill water. On 9 December, again in Russia, an explosion affected the Yamalo-Nenets-Okrug pipeline (Ural), polluting around 100 m2 of tundra.