



Cedre NEWSLETTER

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Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution

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Emergency response

In early June, the French maritime authorities for the Channel and North Sea organised an **ORSEC** exercise involving a scenario simulating a collision between two vessels causing a spill of 400 tonnes of heavy bunker oil drifting in Somme Bay. One of our agents integrated the *Préfecture maritime* response centre, while *Cedre's* response centre provided material safety data sheets, results of behaviour modelling for the pollutant and boom deployment recommendations.

Another exercise was organised by the Loiret *Préfecture*. This exercise was based on a road transport accident scenario involving dangerous substances. *Cedre* was called upon and provided information on the toxicity of the insecticide involved, clean-up methods for the polluted surfaces and precautions to be taken during response operations.

During the month of June, the duty team received two enquiries on the toxicity of domestic fuel oil, the evolution of the product over time and response techniques. The first case caused pollution of land and a well on private property (leak of 1,500 litres from small-scale commercial activity). The second case involved a river in the Indre-et-Loire area and the spill caused fish mortality.

Like every month, Météo France was called upon for several drift predictions following aerial observation of oil slicks and waste at sea.

Deepwater Horizon rig (cont.)

This month, efforts made to respond to the spill from the rig **Deepwater Horizon** did not slacken. The figures released on 30 June continue to impress: 42,700 people involved, 850 km of booms, 1,500 km of sorbent booms, 106,000 m³ of emulsion recovered, 6,000 m³ of dispersants used, including 2,200 m³ from the seafloor, and 275 burning operations dispersing around 38,000 m³ of oil into the atmosphere. However, controversy over the flow rate from the well goes on. Daily quantities escaping from the seafloor are now estimated at 7,000 to 8,000 m³/day. After 71 days, this represents a volume of around 500,000 m³. The US authorities have stated that 700 km of shoreline have been polluted, including 400 km in Louisiana. Finally, 89,916 compensation claims have been presented and 138 million dollars have already been paid.

The French company Ecocéane has sold 10 boats (five 9.20 m Cataglop CG92 and five 6.6 m Cataglop CG66) to the US firm AshBritt and has leased its 18 metre offshore oil recovery vessel, *Catamar*, for a nine month period (source: AFP).

IMO mission in the Bahamas

Upon request by the Government of the Bahamas, IMO sent two experts to Nassau, in early June, to assess the risks associated with the pollution from the rig **Deepwater Horizon** in case the slicks are pushed out of the Gulf of Mexico by currents. The Caribbean delegate and an expert from the regional RAC/REMPEITC centre in Curaçao visited the area to assess the Government's level of response preparedness, drawing upon its national spill contingency plan and the Government and oil industry's means available in the Bahamas. Recommendations were made on the surveillance and protection of the islands in the western Bahamas, most likely to be affected.

In short

VISITS

- ▶ On 3rd, 50 Navy Academy Cadets

TRAINING/EXERCISES

- ▶ From 7th to 11th, **CFP/Cedre** training course on "Oil and chemical spill response means" for **VNF** agents, 11 participants
- ▶ On 11th, training for 14 magistrates at the *Préfecture Maritime de l'Atlantique*
- ▶ From 14th to 16th, **CFP/Cedre** training course on "River bank clean-up and waste treatment following a spill", for **VNF** agents, 12 participants
- ▶ From 13th to 21st, pollution response training course for Seine-et-Marne fire brigade, 13 participants
- ▶ On 30th, RCH4 chemical risk course for the Bouches-du-Rhône fire brigade

MEETINGS AT CEDRE

- ▶ On 10th, meeting of Board of Governors
- ▶ On 28th and 29th, ISO 9001-14001 audit

CEDRE PUBLICATIONS



- ▶ *Cedre* 2009 annual report is available in French at www.cedre.fr

- ▶ Some twenty accident sheets have been added to the "**Spills**" section of our website and spills can now be searched for by spill type and category of pollutant.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

- ▶ **Editions Quae** has just published a reference work on chemical spills entitled "*Pollutions chimiques accidentelles du transport maritime*": 183 spills listed, 55 analysed, feedback for 8 families of products, proposals.



Study visit by an Egyptian delegation

As part of the twinning project intended to support the Egyptian authorities in the improvement of their freshwater management (Newsletters n° 169, 171, 176, 177 and 179) and following several missions in Cairo and Aswan, we received, from 14th to 18th, a delegation of 10 Egyptian specialists representing different departments of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation. Our Egyptian colleagues spent 3 days in Brest where they held discussions with representatives of *Cedre*'s different departments, attended the practical sessions of a training course organised for *VNF*, visited the Polmar stockpile and discovered *Océanopolis*. We then accompanied them to Paris, where the delegation was received by the 27th company of the Paris fire brigade as well as by *Sycopol*. The final project phase is due to be held in Cairo in September.

French Minister of Ecology visits Brest

On 7 June, Mr Jean-Louis Borloo, the French Minister of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Sea, travelled to Brest for the inauguration of the new premises of the *marine protected areas agency* and the celebration of the 20th anniversary of *Océanopolis*, the ocean discovery centre in Brest. *Cedre* was involved in celebrating both these events.

France: Form-Edit seminar

On 15 and 16 June, an engineer from *Cedre*'s duty team took part in the seminar on the 2011 changes in regulations on the transport (road, sea and air) of dangerous goods, held in the Holiday Inn, Porte de Pantin in Paris.

Netmar workshop

On 23 June, a national workshop on the NETMAR project (Open service network for marine environmental data), funded by the 7th European research and development framework programme, was held at *Cedre*. The aim of this workshop, which brought together *Ifremer*, *SHOM*, *Météo France* and *Cedre* was to review the existing tools and identify gaps and possible solutions.

Oil Spill Response Ltd celebrates its 25th anniversary

On 15 June, *OSR* gathered together many of its partners in London to celebrate its 25 years of existence. The day of presentations and discussions on the actions conducted by *OSR* since its creation was followed by an evening reception for 200 people in the prestigious setting of Royal Naval College in Greenwich. *Cedre* was represented by its Director and once again wishes *OSR* every success in the future.

Industrial Technical Advisory Committee meeting

On 14 June, *ITAC* held its meeting in London, in which *Cedre* took part. A large proportion of the discussions revolved around the *Deepwater Horizon* accident and action taken to respond, on the one hand, to the flow of oil from the well and, on the other, to the pollution caused and its impacts on the environment.

AMOP 2010

From 6 to 11 June 2010, 3 agents from *Cedre* took part in the "33rd *AMOP Technical Seminar* on Environmental Contamination and Response" in Halifax. The aim of this seminar was to develop the knowledge base and technology for combatting Arctic and marine oil spills (*AMOP – Arctic and Marine Oilspill Program*). *Cedre* presented 5 conferences, including 3 during a special session on "hazardous and noxious substances" organised by Transport Canada. Alongside this event, an agent took part in a shoreline survey course (*SCAT* or *Shoreline Clean-Up Assessment Technique*) organised by Environment Canada and two others visited *ECRC* (*Eastern Canada Response Corporation*) spill response equipment stockpiles.

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