



N° 183 E – News from September 2010

Emergency response

During the first few days of September, two spills occurred, one involving over 10,000 litres of jet A1 fuel spilt into the environment (ground and stream) following a road accident in the Val-d'Oise, and the other involving one cubic metre of ferric chloride, a strong acid, released into a stream in the Loire-Atlantique area due to a false manoeuvre at a wastewater treatment plant. In each of these two cases, assistance from *Cedre's* response centre was provided on the substance in question and the response techniques that could be implemented. Other actions were carried out in relation to instances of pollution detected by aerial observations in the Bay of Biscay and the Mediterranean, necessitating Mothy slick drift predictions and the analysis of aerial photographs. Finally, a major marine pollution exercise organised by the Northern Defence Zone mobilised several agents from *Cedre*, within the Command Centre in Lille, in the field as well as at our Response Centre in Brest. The scenario of this exercise involved a spill of several hundreds of cubic metres of heavy fuel oil by an oil tanker travelling through the Channel in stormy weather.

In short

VISITS

- ▶ On 15th, visit from a Nigerian delegation upon request by Total EP Nigeria.
- ▶ From 8th to 10th, *Cedre* hosted the HSE Total Logistics France seminar

TRAINING

- ▶ On 27th and 28th, "Merchant ships and the role of shipping industry stakeholders in the event of accidental marine pollution" training course, 11 participants
- ▶ From 13th to 17th, "Response to oil pollution on the shoreline n°3" training course, 21 participants

Deepwater Horizon (cont.)

The "Bottom Kill" operation launched in the days following the *Deepwater Horizon* accident consisting of drilling two relief wells was completed in late September. Cement and other matter were pumped into the well, 4,000 metres below sea level, to back up the "Top Kill" operation completed in July to plug the wellhead. Over 20,000 people, however, still remain mobilised to continue clean-up and rehabilitation work. Sampling and measurement programmes are to continue, so as to assess the impacts on the marine and shoreline environments. BP announced its intent to join the Marine Well Containment Company (MWCC) created last July by the oil companies Chevron, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil and Shell to develop a system able to deal with a submarine leak of 100,000 barrels a day in waters 3,000 metres deep.

Visit from the Republic of the Congo's Minister for the Merchant Navy

On 6 September, *Cedre* received Mr Martin Parfait Aimé COUSSOUD-MAVOUNGOU, the Minister in charge of the Merchant Navy for the Republic of the Congo. This visit was part of a programme of meetings in Brest with *SHOM*, the mayor of Brest, also President of *Cedre*, and finally *CEPPOL*. Discussions focused on *Cedre's* activities liable to most interest the Republic of the Congo, in particular assistance in an emergency situation, safety audits and response plans, and finally training.

France: CPB spill contingency plan

CPB, LyondellBasell group, contracted *Cedre* to produce its new contingency plan for the management of oil and chemical spills in adjacent water bodies i.e. the lakes Vaïne and Berre and the maritime port of Marseille (*Newsletter n° 179*). It is within this context that an engineer from the Contingency Planning Department took part, on 2 September, in a crisis management exercise. This exercise was the opportunity to test the provisional version of the plan alongside the services concerned. The comments and corrections arising from feedback from the exercise and from meetings will be integrated into the final version of the plan.

Vigo, experimentation and DRIFTER project meeting

On 14 and 15 September, Cetmar, the Spanish leader of the European project DRIFTER in which *Cedre* is participating, organised an experiment at sea followed by a review meeting on the results expected and obtained in terms of slick monitoring using buoys and dyes, aerial and satellite detection as well as drift modelling in coastal waters. *CEPPOL*, *Sasemar*, the Portuguese Navy and the Spanish Ministry of the Environment were invited to present their perspectives.

London: IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group meeting

The 11th meeting of the IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group was held from 20 to 25 September 2010. It was chaired by Nick Quinn (New Zealand) and brought together 39 delegates representing 22 Member States and 24 observers representing a dozen intergovernmental or non-governmental organisations and regional centres. The working group's activities mainly focus on producing guides and manuals. Several of these publications, drafted for this session, will be finalised for TG12 and submitted to MEPC 62 for approval in July 2011. Cedre will lead the revision of the IMO dispersants manual, which will integrate, in particular, the transatlantic experience acquired during the pollution in the Gulf of Mexico. Mr Alexander Von Buxhoeveden of the Swedish Coast Guard has been elected as chair of the group for the upcoming sessions.

Brest, Océanopolis: 6th Researchers' Night

On Friday 24 September, Cedre took part in the 6th Researchers' Night at Océanopolis alongside many of Brest scientific organisations. Visitors had the opportunity to meet researchers in a relaxed atmosphere, to resolve riddles forming a competition. The theme chosen for this year's event was biodiversity. Cedre's stand was entitled "Oil is not for eating!" and for the occasion we worked with a both unexpected and appetising partner: Symphonies bakery. The behaviour of oil spilled at sea was explained and illustrated with... chocolate! Free tasting with guaranteed success! The organisers were very pleased with the results, with almost 1,800 entries.

ORSEC / POLMAR-Land training courses in Normandy

Two training courses on the marine pollution provisions of ORSEC plans for local councillors, State services, municipalities and associations were organised by the CNFPT of Lower Normandy, the CVRH of Rouen and the local DDTM, upon the initiative of the regional storage and response centre CISIPH of Le Havre. On 7 and 8 September, some sixty agents were trained in Granville. The morning's theory session was led by representatives of CISIPH, CETMEF and Cedre. The exercises in the afternoon, on a beach in Saint-Pair-sur-Mer, were run by CISIPH trainers and technicians. On 9 and 10, some twenty participants attended two days of theory training at CVRH in Rouen, run by the same trainers. The skills and knowledge acquired will be used during the POLMAR exercise on 12 October in Saint-Valéry-en-Caux.

Practical training course for the Malian companies Semos and Yatela

Cedre organised and ran a practical training course from 27/09 to 01/10 for the companies Semos and Yatela which operate gold mines in Mali and are confronted with risks of spills due to the transport and storage of diesel and chemicals. Twelve members of their response team were trained in containment and recovery techniques on land, in pipelines and trenches as well as on water.

Monaco: "Oil spill response" training course

Two engineers from Cedre led a 3-day training course in Monaco from 20 to 24 September for the fire brigade, the maritime and airport police, maritime affairs and the secretary of the RAMOGEPOL plan. The theory sessions focused on Monaco's marine pollution contingency plan and the different phases of response, from aerial observation to on land worksite organisation and waste management. Two exercises were conducted to implement part of the teaching and led to a number of suggestions to improve existing procedures.

Côtes-d'Armor: pumping fuel oil out of the warship Laplace

The former US destroyer, launched in 1942 under the name of USS Lorrain was sold to France in 1947 and became the meteorological ship Laplace. On 16 September 1950, the ship was blasted on a German mine in Fresnaye bay and sank in waters 20 m deep, 800 m from the shore. 52 of the 92 men onboard were killed. The wreck had been leaking fuel oil for the past few years, causing the local inhabitants to call for it to be cleaned up. Following an initial programme last year, resulting in 22 m³ of fuel oil being pumped out, a second programme was conducted in mid-September by CEPOL to completely empty the wreck's bunker tanks.

Gulf of Mexico: new offshore platform blaze

On Thursday 3 September, the 14 year old Vermilion block 380 production platform, which had been operating for several months, went on fire. The 13 workers were forced to jump into the water and were rescued without major injury. This was neither a particularly large platform, nor a new model design, but rather a simple production platform, producing 200 m³ of oil and 250,000 m³ of gas a day. In this new incident, all the safety mechanisms functioned correctly. The safety valves on the 7 wells operated by the platform all did their job and there was no significant pollution.

[Unsubscribe from the Cedre Newsletter](#)

Think green - don't print out your emails!

[Legal information](#)

[Contact us](#)