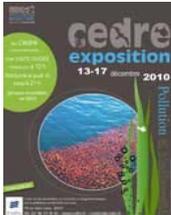




N° 185 E – News from November 2010



"Pollution and Biodiversity" exhibition at Cedre, from 13 to 17 December

As part of the International Year of Biodiversity, Cedre is organising a special public exhibition from 13 to 17 December. See [here](#) for further details. Come along and see for yourself!

Emergency response

The Emergency Response team was called upon for an exercise organised by REMPEC in Egypt and a number of other incidents. A port authority made an enquiry about pumping equipment in relation to a problem involving a hold flooded with oily water. Modelling was also carried out to simulate the behaviour of kerosene following a spill of almost 10 m³ caused by an underwater pipe being punctured by a ship's anchor, near a wharf in Martinique. As kerosene is volatile, no arrivals on land were reported. The response centre also received a request for assistance from the Orne CODIS fire and emergency centre within the framework of the UIC Transaid network to gather data on cobalt chloride following a road tanker being overturned. In the end, the accident only caused a minor leak, as a system had successfully been set up to transfer the cargo. As is the case every month, several drift predictions were requested and the Mothy model was run: following the loss of 12 containers overboard in the Channel and following observations of pollution, one of which resulted in a ship being rerouted to Brest.

In short

TRAINING

- ▶ On 16th: ORSEC Polmar training day in Nice, 36 participants
- ▶ From 15th to 17th, at Cedre, 2nd "Aerial observation of pollution at sea" training session, 16 participants
- ▶ On 17th: PCS Spill Response training day in Menton, 20 participants
- ▶ From 22nd to 24th: "Chemical spill response principles" course, Cedre, 18 participants
- ▶ On 25th: spill management module of the Coastal Risk Management Masters, Musée de la Mer de Biarritz, 13 participants
- ▶ On 25th and 26th: 2 days upon request by the Conservatoire du Littoral for Manche and Calvados Polmar correspondents, 20 participants
- ▶ On 30th: PCS Spill Response training course, Agde, 8 participants

DATES FOR THE DIARY

The next Cedre Information Day will be held on 17 March 2011, at INHESJ on the theme "Dispersants: new strategies"

Technical Day and Cedre Strategic Committee

The Technical Day was the chance for the Contingency Planning and Research teams to present their work on the "Revision of public and private contingency plans" and "Pollution assessment/sampling, measures and analyses". The presentations raised questions, comments and suggestions from the audience, in relation to the latest evolutions in French and international response organisation following the recent pollution in the Gulf of Mexico. The following day, the Strategic Committee deliberated upon the 2011 programme which will carry on as the continuation of previous programmes. The proposals and discussions drew upon preparatory work carried out in the spring to define the main directions according to the priorities set by the partners.

Arcopol

As part of the European project ARCOPOL, an international conference entitled "From preparedness to compensation: tools for local authorities" was held in Brest on 25 and 26 November. Several testimonials by local councillors representing shoreline areas having experienced spill situations kicked off the conference. Cedre presented a web-based field data collection system enabling situation overviews to be obtained in the event of a spill, a video presenting clean-up principles as well as 3 operational guides. The following presentations aimed to assist municipalities in obtaining compensation in the event of a spill at sea affecting their shoreline and to acknowledge ecological damage.

London: IPIECA's ITAC and OSWG meetings

Hosted on 9 November by IMO, the ITAC meeting focused its agenda on discussions intended to draw lessons from the operations conducted during the recent spill in the Gulf of Mexico and to propose improvements. 3 themes were discussed: information dissemination, subsea dispersant injection and slick burning. On 11, the IPIECA Oil Spill Working Group meeting, hosted by Aramco, was also heavily marked by the action taken by the oil industry following the Deepwater Horizon disaster. Dispersants held an important place in discussions, as did the actions of the Global Initiative, a joint venture between IPIECA and IMO to promote response preparedness on a global scale.

Malta: MOIG technical session

The MOIG technical session held on 22 and 23 November focused on the lessons from the pollution of the Gulf of Mexico and the consequences a similar event would have in the Mediterranean.

Clara II

Cedre organised the final meeting of the Clara II project (Calculations related to accidental release in the Mediterranean), a project supported by ANR that focuses on the development of software capable of modelling the fate of a chemical spill at sea. During this meeting, the software was presented to an assembly comprising all the project partners, the ANR representative and three representatives of the company Noveltis, which indicated its interest, in the long term, in marketing the software and continuing to develop it, in particular for regions other than the Mediterranean. The project is extended for a further 7 months and will be completed in summer 2011.

Train the trainer course in Tunis

Upon request by REMPEC, an engineer from *Cedre* and a representative of the Canadian Ministry of the Environment ran a train the trainer course on the "Assessment of oiled shorelines" in Tunis from 12 to 14 October. This course gathered representatives of Algerian, Moroccan and Tunisian administrations as well as staff from the merchant navy and regional oil industry. It was jointly organised by the National Agency of Environment Protection of Tunisia, IMO and MOIG as part of the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) for the Mediterranean. The aim was to promote the integration of the systematic polluted shoreline assessment process into national response procedures, as the upshot of the publication of a guide by REMPEC in 2009.

Training course in Andalusia (cont.)

To follow up the training run in May in Seville and Cadiz (*Newsletter n° 180*), two engineers travelled to Huelva to run 6 days of practical training for 3 groups of around 15 participants. The first day was held at the CEPSA refinery in Huelva, on the equipment clean-up zone, on which an exercise area (riprap, boulders, pebble beds) had been set up. A few drums of heavy fuel oil provided by the refinery were released in the exercise area, enabling participants to work in near-real conditions. The second day, on a beach, this time without oil, the trainees were introduced to clean-up techniques for use on sandy beaches and the creation of systems to protect outflow channels.

Petroleum Environment Research Forum (PERF)

The PERF held its 82nd meeting in Houston (Texas) from 2 to 4 November. Given the recent disaster involving *Deepwater Horizon*, the specific theme of this meeting focused on oil spills, how to deal with them and the topics requiring specific research. This forum involves the main oil companies and enables them to pool their research efforts to boost their efficiency. The Director of *Cedre* took part in this meeting which provided the opportunity to define a number of ideas for joint research projects.

Information meeting at UIC

On 10 November, UIC, the French chemical industry union, organised an information meeting on its premises for its members on the 2010 HNS Convention and its implications for the chemical industry. Alongside representatives of the administration who presented the convention itself, representatives of *Cedre* presented its available means in response to HNS spills, whether in an emergency situation or otherwise.

Dakar refinery

Two engineers from the Contingency Planning team recently audited Dakar refinery's spill contingency plan. They were accompanied by an engineer from Total Raffinage, technical assistant of the SAR. In addition to refinery managers, they met representatives of the Dakar port safety unit and Hassmar, the authority in charge of coordinating maritime safety and security and protection of the marine environment. The audit generated immediate practical recommendations as well as a biannual improvement programme proposal.

Technip contract for a marine well containment system

Technip has been awarded a contract by ExxonMobil, on behalf of the Marine Well Containment Company (MWCC), in order to design an emergency response system that will be available to contain oil in the event of a potential underwater well incident in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico. The contract covers Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) of the subsea components (equipments, umbilicals, risers and flowlines) of the Marine Well Containment System. This system, which is scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2011, will be capable of being mobilised within 24 hours and fully deployed within weeks.