



## Cedre NEWSLETTER

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#### Emergency response

Picric acid, used in the dyes and explosives industries, was it seems once used in schools if the recent discoveries of small quantities of this substance in schools in north-west France are anything to go by. These discoveries resulted in the mobilisation of *Cedre* through the **TRANSAID** protocol. *Cedre* advised the authorities to contact the bomb disposal services to destroy the tubes.

On 19 May, a member of the **EPIF** team was sent to the Seine following pollution by plastic debris, to advise the firm in charge of removing the pollutant. The same day, a crisis unit was mobilised within a transport company as part of an exercise involving a collision scenario on the Seine generating a spill of 150 m<sup>3</sup> of heavy fuel oil. An agent from *Cedre* took part in the crisis unit.

On 30 May, a POLMAR-Sea exercise was organised by the maritime authorities for the Channel and North Sea, for which the scenario involved a collision between a chemical tanker and a cargo ship in the Pas-de-Calais traffic separation scheme. The cargo expert team in Cherbourg included an agent from *Cedre*, assisted by the *Cedre* response centre in Brest, which provided behaviour predictions for the products involved as well as the associated dangers, in collaboration with the **INERIS CASU**.

Also on 30 May, in addition to an **ICE** exercise led by Switzerland, *Cedre* was alerted by the Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon authorities (**DTAM**) as to a spill of domestic fuel oil from an oil depot. The pollutant was released into the sea at the foot of riprap in Saint-Pierre port. The *Cedre* response centre remains in contact with the **DTAM**, in charge of coordinating response.

#### Strategic Committee meeting

**INERIS** hosted the spring meeting of *Cedre's* Strategic Committee on 18 and 19 May. These two days were the opportunity for the committee members present to visit the institute's trial facilities and to attend presentations on its different fields of activity. **INERIS** and *Cedre* are long-standing acquaintances, yet these days offered the chance to discuss new subjects which could lead to further collaboration between the two organisations. The meeting also achieved its objectives, in particular its review of *Cedre's* current activities and future actions.

#### "Quartier des sciences" festival

*Cedre* took an active part in the "Quartier des sciences" festival on the theme of chemistry held from 3 to 31 May 2011 in Brest and organised by **ABRET**. Its aim: to promote chemistry among the general public. *Cedre* offered science students an introduction to oil spill response via a static exhibition at the science faculty library. On Wednesday 11 May, two agents from *Cedre* ran a stand at a chemistry discovery day which brought together different local players and offered visitors the chance to find out about oil and oil spill response through simple, fun, real-life experiments.

#### Guadeloupe POLMAR training

Upon request by the POLMAR department of the Guadeloupe maritime authorities, the head of the Training Department and the Caribbean delegate ran a practical training course on oil spill response from 16 to 19 May for around thirty participants from the maritime authorities, the fire brigade and the technical services of the different local shoreline authorities in Basse-terre, Grande Terre and the dependencies (Marie-Galante). This joint course was the fifth organised in Guadeloupe by *Cedre* since 2006. It was preceded by a half day of informative meetings for the local authorities on their responsibilities in the event of a spill.

#### REMPEC focal points meeting

#### In short

##### TRAINING

- ▶ 2 training courses for **VNF**, at **CFP** Plouzané and at *Cedre*
  - from 16th to 20th, "Oil and chemical spill response means", 10 participants
  - from 24th to 27th, "River bank clean-up and waste treatment following a spill", 10 participants
- ▶ From 9th to 13th, session 2 of the practical course on shoreline response, 21 participants

##### EVENTS

- ▶ On 21st and 22nd May, the *Cedre* Mediterranean delegate took part in the open days organised by Ifremer in La Seyne-sur-Mer.

##### HOT OFF THE PRESS

- ▶ In the collection of *Cedre* chemical response guides, the French language guide on **chloroform**. An English translation of this guide will be available shortly.



The **REMPEC** focal points meeting was held in Malta from 3 to 5 May. The Director of *Cedre* took part in this meeting to support the French delegation. This event was the opportunity to review the progress of **REMPEC's** ongoing actions, in particular in terms of the production of printed guides and online tools. The work programme was defined for 2012-2013 and will be submitted for approval to the Mediterranean Action Plan focal points at the next meeting in September in Athens.

### Safer Seas 2011

The international symposium Safer Seas was held in Brest from 9 to 13 May. This event, organised every 4 years, gathers together international specialists on maritime safety and security. Alongside the theme of piracy, the issue of marine spills was also on the agenda. *Cedre* took part in a round table on the subject "Oil shipping and beyond" and contributed to the question of accidents involving hazardous and noxious substances.

### International Oil Spill Conference

The International Oil Spill Conference was held in Portland (Oregon) from 23 to 26 May 2011. *Cedre* was represented by five agents, who chaired a session and presented 5 conferences and 3 posters. They also took turns to run the French stand set up by UBIFRANCE and **Sycopol**. The exhibition was the opportunity to learn about many new developments, while the conferences were highly informative, in particular on the actions conducted in response to the **Deepwater Horizon** spill. The high concentration of specialists in accident water pollution from across the globe resulted in fruitful exchanges and provided the opportunity to hold specific meetings alongside the programme of activities.

### BAWG OTSOPA 2011 meeting

The Bonn Agreement Working Group **OTSOPA** met from 24 to 27 May. This technical meeting was hosted by the Danish authorities in Ebeltoft and involved around thirty participants. The Bonn Agreement action plan continues to be pursued in the fields of research and development, aerial surveillance, response equipment and techniques, guidelines and manuals as well as feedback from real incidents.

### Oil in Alberta (Canada)

A major leak from the Rainbow pipeline in northern Alberta, 100 km north-east of Peace River, was detected on 29 April, despite 6 inspections over the past 5 years. Around 4,500 m<sup>3</sup> were spilt according to the province's energy regulator. A beaver dam temporarily contained the oil, but the majority of it then flowed into stands of stagnant water. Plains Midstream Canada, the pipeline owner, shut down the pipeline and sealed off both ends. Clean-up operations, suspended for almost a week due to forest fires, are due to resume in early June. So far, around 40% of the oil has been recovered.

### Illegal discharge from the *Kaltene* in Brittany

On 6 May, a Nantes customs POLMAR plane detected a trail of oil 4 km long by 100 m wide, around 140 km west of the Ushant traffic separation scheme, in the wake of the *Kaltene*, flying the Marshall Islands flag. The vessel had left Donges and was headed for Milford Haven (Wales). The Chief Prosecutor ordered the vessel to be rerouted to Brest and demanded a 500,000 euro bank guarantee from the shipowner. On 17th, the bank guarantee was paid but a problem was detected with the propeller during inspection. The vessel is now under repair.

### BP: a record-breaking fine

In March 2006, the leak from a BP Alaska pipeline caused a spill of over 800 m<sup>3</sup> of crude oil north of Alaska. British Petroleum has been fined 25 million dollars and has been ordered to spend 60 million dollars to improve the safety of its 2,500 km of pipelines in Alaska. This fine, the most severe for this size of spill in the US, is on top of the 200 million dollars already paid by BP Alaska to replace the damaged sections of pipeline responsible for the leak.

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