



N° 192 E – News from June 2011

Emergency response

This month, *Cedre's* duty team was called upon by the **DTAM** of Saint Pierre-et-Miquelon throughout response to a spill of an estimated 100 m³ of diesel. This incident was caused by a leak from the valve room of the oil depot close to the port and contaminated the land below, forming large areas of sheen at the water surface.

Cedre was also alerted and asked for advice concerning an oil fire in the engine room of a barge transporting 800 tons of salt on the Rhone, in which the barge was at risk of sinking.

Like each month, the response centre received several requests for drift predictions and information on various chemicals.

Cedre took part in six exercises on external sites and at the maritime authorities:

- for the **ICE** network, for which *Cedre* is the focal point in France, in an exercise involving chlorosulfonic acid;
- for the Western Defence Zone, in a rail accident scenario near Tours between passenger and freight trains, involving acrylonitrile and dimethyl sulphate;
- for the maritime authorities for the Atlantic, in the **ORSEC** POLMAR-Sea exercise involving a cargo of **IFO 380** spilt at sea following a collision in southern Brittany (15 and 16 June). An agent from *Cedre* was sent to the Crisis Management Centre in Brest while *Cedre's* response centre processed the various requests for information on the fate and threats presented by the pollutant. *Cedre* was also involved in the on land component, on site, alongside the Prefecture of Morbihan;
- for the Alpes-Maritimes area where an agent took part in a POLMAR exercise on site (cf. article on June training courses below);
- for the *Communauté d'Agglomération de la Riviera Française* (CARF) during a **PCS**-Infra-POLMAR exercise;
- for ONEMA, in a spill of ammonia water from five 200 litre drums fallen into a river, by providing ecotoxicology data and advice on response techniques.

In short

TRAINING

► "Spill response in inland waters", *Cedre*, 6 - 10 June, 17 participants

► "Crisis Management **ORSEC** POLMAR-Land, *Cedre*, 27 June - 1st July, 22 participants

MEETINGS

► **MSFD** mirror group at **MEDDTL**, on 6th

► *Cedre* board meeting, on 15th, at *Cedre*

► **VALDECO** project closure, on 15th, at *Cedre*

► Organisation of Brest Science Village 2012 (13 -18 July 2012), on 16th, at **SHOM**

► Interspill 2012 Steering Committee, on 21st, at the **IOPC Funds**, in London

CEDRE PUBLICATIONS



► *Cedre* 2010 annual report is available in French at www.cedre.fr

US-Canada spill response exercise

Between 20 and 24 June, the head of *Cedre's* Emergency Response Department took part as an observer in the US-CAN Salish Sea exercise held in Oak Harbor, Washington state, a 3 hour drive from Seattle. The exercise was based on the discovery of pollution from an unknown source between Vancouver Island and Port Angeles (US). The main aims of the exercise were to assess the response effort implemented by the US Coast Guard, to practise the US Coast Guard's procedures and to develop a joint action plan with the Canadian authorities. Over 200 people were mobilised for this drill, under the eyes of 12 foreign guest observers, mainly from Europe.

June training courses

The month of June was a particularly busy month for the Training Department. In addition to the two training courses run as part of *Cedre's* annual training schedule (see "In short" section), *Cedre* contributed to eight additional courses. Four of these courses were for the **DDTM** and focused on **ORSEC** POLMAR-Land: Lorient, 5 June, 28 participants; Toulon, 9 June, approx. 60 participants; Nice, 14-15 June, 80 participants; and Saint-Nazaire, 21-23 June, 25 participants. The courses run in Nice and Lorient were conducted prior to the POLMAR-Land exercise organised in these two areas on 16 June by the Prefecture, with support from the POLMAR-Land correspondent at the **DDTM**. On 17 June, *Cedre* was in charge of running a spill response exercise organised in the area of Menton by **CARF** within the framework of the French-Italian project **ALCOTRA**. The aim of this exercise was to test the local contingency plan (**PCS**) in the event of a shoreline pollution incident simulated using coloured gelatine. An agent was sent at the École Nationale Supérieure des Officiers de Sapeurs-Pompiers in Aix-en-Provence on 28 June to give lectures during the Chemical Response course (RCH 4) (16 participants). A trainer from *Cedre* also provided support to **FOST** by running a practical course in Dubai for the Total depot (14-16 June, 12 participants). Finally, *Cedre* hosted a practical training course on response in inland waters from 20 to 24 June for around twenty firemen from the Seine-et-Marne fire brigade.

New project

Since the **Deepwater Horizon** disaster in 2010, the gas and oil industry has been expressing its needs in terms of leak modelling tools for offshore wells. The project METANE "Modeling under-water gas/oil blowout and LNG leak" consists of developing such a decision support system on the industrial risks related to an underwater leak of oil, natural gas or LNG at sea. The development of this software will involve an experimental phase to validate the equations used. *Cedre* will be in charge of conducting experiments in the laboratory and in the open environment in order to calculate the trajectory, dissolution and speed at which gas bubbles or oil droplets rise through the water column. The METANE project, led by Alyotech Technologies, will be run by a consortium comprising industry partners (GDF Suez and Nymphéa Environnement SA) and research centres (École des Mines d'Alès, *Cedre*).

Spill contingency plan update for the Société Ivoirienne de Raffinage

Located south of the port of Abidjan, SIR (Société Ivoirienne de Raffinage), created in the 1960s, has high tech facilities enabling it to handle up to 4 million tonnes of crude oil a year. Equipped with two import and export terminals off Abidjan as well as wharfs near Ebrié Lagoon, it is faced with many spill risks. *Cedre* is currently assisting SIR in updating its spill contingency plan. Two engineers spent a week onsite to assess the risks caused by the company's activities and to put forward response strategies in collaboration with SIR, its contractors, the port and the national authorities. *Cedre* also met different local organisations in order to gather as much information as possible to update the plan (SODEXAM - airport, aeronautical and meteorological management and development corporation; Oceanographic research centre; National remote sensing and geographic information centre). SIR is today, along with the port, the only organisation able to respond to pollution. Following the post-electoral crisis at the beginning of the year, CIAPOL, the Ivory Coast pollution response centre, was entirely ransacked and is currently being rebuilt.

Dispersants workshop in Accra (Ghana)

From 22 to 24 June 2011, a representative of *Cedre* took part in the running of the regional workshop in Accra on the introduction of a dispersant use policy, upon request by **IPIECA** and organised through the Guinea Current Interim Commission (CICG) within the dual framework of:

- the **IMO/IPIECA** Global Initiative for West and Central Africa (GI WACAF) which aims to catalyse and promote the implementation of national contingency plans in West and Central Africa.

This workshop brought together the Government focal points in charge of questions relating to oil spill preparedness and response.

- the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME) project supported by IMO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and **IPIECA**.

Tian Du Feng trial in Brest, the only case of illegal discharge reported in 2010

The criminal court of Brest will pronounce its final judgment on 20 September 2011 following the *Tian Du Feng* trial. An 800,000 euro fine is called for and 50,000 euros damages are claimed by the claimants. This bulk carrier was transporting 70,000 tonnes of coal when it was caught by the French Customs spotter plane on 16 November 2010 with a 6 km slick in its wake. It was rerouted to Brest before setting off again on 18 November 2010 after a bank guarantee of 500,000 euros had been paid.

Erika 3 legislative package: incomplete transposition into French law

The European Commission has requested that France rapidly adopt the national legislative provisions (by 15 August) in order to apply the European rules relating to the maritime traffic monitoring and information system, failing which the case could be referred to the Court of Justice of the European Union. This European legislative package adopted by the EU in April 2009 will enter into force by 2012.

What do Chevrolet and Deepwater Horizon have in common?

The car manufacturer Chevrolet, a brand of General Motors, plans to recycle over 350 km of floating booms used during the oil spill caused by the explosion of the **Deepwater Horizon** rig in the Gulf of Mexico. Air deflectors will be produced for the Chevrolet Volt from 25% used booms, avoiding the disposal of several tonnes of waste in the environment.

Phenol pollution in the Xin'an river (China)

On 4 June 2011, a road tanker overturned on the highway in the province of Zhejiang in China, causing a spill of 20 tonnes of phenol. Heavy rain caused the chemical to run into the Xin'an river. The authorities immediately closed off water intakes and drinking water supplies. Water was discharged from the dam across the river to dilute the phenol. Thanks to this operation, the drinking water supply was restored from the 6th.