



N° 224 E – News from May 2014

Emergency response

On 5th May, an exercise was organised off Fujairah (United Arab Emirates) by Total Lubricants, based on a scenario involving a ship-source lubricant leak, with a drift simulation conducted for a 48 hour period. On 13th May, Cedre was involved in another exercise, run by Donges refinery, involving on a scenario simulating a leak of oily water into the Loire River. Furthermore, Cedre was called upon on 7th May by the New Caledonia civil protection directorate following a spill of highly acidic effluent from a basin at a mining solvent extraction unit into a river (North Bay Creek). An estimated 100 m3 of effluent was released directly into the river. On 11th May, an individual discharged washing effluent from an IBC container into a river in the Haut-Rhin area, causing high fish mortality. The Strasbourg authorities contacted Cedre for support concerning the risks related to the consumption of fish caught in a fishing competition during the pollution incident. Cedre activated the ICE network and was thus able to obtain the necessary information directly from the manufacturer of the substance in question (flocculating agent for wastewater treatment plants).

In short

TRAINING

► Practical training course on shoreline response, session 2, 19th - 23rd May, 18 participants

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 1st session of our English-language **Oil Spill Response** training course, the latest addition to our annual programme, 6th - 10th October 2014, Brest
- 9th **Sea Tech Week**, 13th - 17th October 2014, Brest
- **INTERSPILL 2015**, 24 - 26 March 2015, Amsterdam, Netherlands

39th session of the Cedre Strategic Committee

On 15th May, the Cedre Strategic Committee met at the *Palais de la Découverte* in Paris, where it gained insight into the activities of the **National Academy of Technologies of France**, a public administrative establishment under the French Research Ministry. With 287 fellows, it brings together industry, administration and research representatives to promote and enhance the use of technologies and to contribute to social debate on their benefits as well as the associated opportunities and risks. The meeting mainly centred on Cedre's short and medium term focuses, in terms of both investments and research projects. The committee decided that the next Technical Day, scheduled for mid-November at Cedre, will be devoted to Cedre's ecotoxicology activities, while the next Information Day, in spring 2015, will be on the theme of in situ burning and other alternative techniques.

Awareness-raising session for coastal protection officers

As part of the regional gathering of coastal protection officers from the Brittany delegation of the *Conservatoire de l'espace littoral et des rivages lacustres*, Cedre hosted a half-day awareness-raising session on marine pollution for 55 participants on 15th May. The **ORSEC** system and alert and survey phases were presented, as well as a real case study. This half-day session was an opportunity for valuable discussions, with several officers relating their experience of responding to tarballs and patties of oil in February (see [Newsletter 221](#)).

POLMAR training course and exercise in Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon

From 12th to 16th May, Cedre and **CEREMA** ran an **ORSEC/POLMAR** training course followed by an exercise in Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon. This event was attended by thirty five people, from the Directorate for Territories, Food and the Sea, the Prefecture, departments of the Saint-Pierre local council, **ONCFS**, the Hunting Federation and the private sector. The exercise scenario took advantage of the presence in the archipelago of the hydrographic vessel *Laplace*, which acted as the damaged ship, and a boom was deployed around it.

Training course and exercise at the SIR Abidjan refinery

From 19th to 23rd May, Cedre ran a training and exercise week at the **SIR** Abidjan refinery. The purpose of this action, conducted in order to validate the oil spill contingency plan delivered in 2011, was to receive the response equipment recommended by Cedre, then to raise awareness among the refinery agents, as well as its partners and contractors, about oil spills. This opportunity was taken to present the contingency plan (to around 60 people over 3 days). The alert procedures, reflex actions by duty staff and capacities of operators to respond to a spill scenario from the plan were also tested. This exercise took place at a wharf on Vridi Canal (entrance to the Port of Abidjan) with financial and logistical support from the oil operators SIAP, PUMA Energie and Petroci, and the participation of the service companies Seramar (spill response operator) and Le Floch Dépollution (response equipment supplier).

Training in Turkey

Two engineers from *Cedre* took part in the training workshop on Maritime Accidents – Hazardous Waste Management, Restoration of Contaminated Areas and Wildlife Rehabilitation, with the collaboration of Sea Alarm (birdlife aspects) in Gebze (Turkey) from 7th to 9th May. This workshop was organised by the **Tübitak** Marmara Research Centre's Environment and Cleaner Production Institute as part of a programme funded by the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning. This multi-annual programme aims to improve administrations' response capacity to oil and HNS spills. The participants were from administrations, local authorities and Tübitak.

IOSC 2014, 22nd edition

The International Oil Spill Conference was held from 5th to 7th May in Savannah (Georgia, USA). Over 2,500 participants from across the globe attended the conferences, visited the stands of the 175 exhibitors and watched the equipment demonstrations on the Savannah River. With over 180 presentations, a wide variety of issues were addressed. We note, for instance, research on the themes of response in Arctic environments and chemical dispersion (in particular subsea). During the Cutting Edge Techniques and Research session, *Cedre* presented the results of the European project **Hoverspill**, devoted to designing a hovercraft for response in difficult access areas. Three posters by *Cedre* were also displayed, presenting the tools developed during the **POSOW** project, the website www.chemical-pollution.com on HNS spills and current work on the burn test bench. *Cedre* was represented at France's stand alongside Sycopol. The learning guide "Understanding Chemical Pollution at Sea", produced in collaboration with Transport Canada, was widely distributed.

OTSOPA 2014

The annual meeting of the Bonn Agreement **OTSOPA** working group was held in Bremerhaven, Germany from 20th to 22nd May. The 28 participants, from countries bordering the English Channel and the North Sea, as well as an EU and an **EMSA** representative, were able to discuss their spill response experience. *Cedre* attended this meeting together with the French maritime authority for the English Channel/North Sea and **SG Mer**, leader of the French delegation. France presented the recently launched **Polluproof** project, (ANR-funded project on the aerial detection of chemicals), a review of French **POLREPs** in 2013, the progress of the EMSA working group led by *Cedre* on dispersant use (literature review of reports published on *Deepwater Horizon*), the manuals produced as part of the European project **POSOW**, a summary of the **Cedre Information Day 2014** on HNS spills as well as information on the 600 containers lost in the English Channel last winter. The secretariat announced that the new Bonn Agreement website www.bonnagreement.org is to be launched in September.

GESAMP meeting

From 12th to 16th May, *Cedre* hosted a meeting of the **GESAMP EHS** working group tasked by **IMO** with evaluating the potential impact of harmful substances carried in bulk by ships on the marine ecosystem and on humans. *Cedre* presented its facilities and activities, in particular those devoted to the assessment of chemicals' behaviour at sea. The lessons learnt from *Cedre's* experience in the response to the **Uranus** chemical tanker incident were also presented, with particular emphasis given to the difficulties encountered in collecting information both on the substance's physical and chemical properties and its impact on the environment. During the week of meetings, the specificity of chemical spills and the importance of continuing work on this theme were highlighted during discussions.

Cargo ship grounded in the Galapagos Islands

On the 9th, the Ecuador-registered cargo ship *Galapaface 1* ran aground just off the port of Baquerizo Moreno in San Cristobal, one of the 40 islands of the Galapagos archipelago known for its fragile ecosystem. This incident is reminiscent of the grounding of the oil tanker **Jessica** in 2001. The *Galapaface 1* cracked its hull on a rock and became lodged on a sand bank with 1,000 tonnes of pollutants on board, including cleaning products. On the 15th, around 70 tonnes of fuel was pumped out of the vessel and the Ecuador government declared a state of environmental emergency in order to protect this sensitive area. Samples were taken inside and outside the vessel to check for the presence of pollutants. Pending the towing of the disabled ship, operations to remove the cargo from the hold have begun.

Release of the CMA CGM Florida investigation report

In March 2013, the UK-registered container ship **CMA CGM Florida** was hit by the bulk carrier *Chou Shan* 140 miles off Shanghai, while travelling from the port of Shanghai Yangshan (China) to Busan (South Korea). The incident did not result in any injuries but caused a 650-tonne fuel oil spill. One year on, the UK Maritime Accident Investigation Branch (**MAIB**) has published its **report**, which concludes that the causes of the incident were misuse of VHF, inappropriate use of AIS (Automatic Identification System) and the absence on board both vessels of specific instructions defining the circumstances in which the master should be called to the bridge.

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