

N° 231 E – News from January 2015

Emergency response

While the end of 2014 was marked by the pollution caused when the *Southern Star VII* sank in Bangladesh, with 2 agents from Cedre being sent on site, the beginning of 2015 has been comparatively calm. The 2 agents returned from Bangladesh on 3rd and 4th January respectively, with a sense of accomplishment following this assignment which extended over the Christmas and New Year period.

This month's incidents confirmed that the most commonly spilled pollutant is **DO**, or diesel. 300 litres of this type of substance was accidentally spilled in Saint-Malo-de-Guersac (Loire-Atlantique) on partially flooded grassland, on the 5th of the month. A few days later, a further 300 litres of the same substance was released, deliberately this time, in the Bouches-du-Rhône area, and travelled through a drainage network, a trench and a stream to end up in a faster flowing watercourse. In both cases, the authorities and emergency services were called upon for response and monitoring measures, then relating to legal disputes or official reporting of the incident. Finally, a few chemical-related enquiries were addressed to Cedre, for instance on Tanalith, a wood treatment product (fungicide), whereby piles treated with this product were being considered for shoreline protection in the Landes area. Cedre had previously been confronted with this highly ecotoxic product when a spill occurred a number of years ago (2008) in a stream flowing into a ria in Northern Brittany.

In short

DATES FOR THE DIARY

► 20th Cedre Information Day
"In situ burning and other alternative techniques"

10th March 2015 in Paris La
Défense.

It's not too late to register!

[Programme](#) and [registration form](#)

► **Interspill 2015**, 24 - 26th March 2015,
Amsterdam, Netherlands.



VISITS

► On 21st, Masters students on the
"Vocational risk prevention and
management" course at **UBO**.

TRAINING

► The Cedre **2015 training calendar** is
now online.

IMO PPR2 meeting

Following the restructuring of IMO's sub-committees, activities relating to the OPRC Convention and OPRC-HNS Protocol now come under the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR). This sub-committee met for the second time from 19th to 23rd January in London to principally address prevention issues (ballast water management, atmospheric emissions from ships, IBC code...). The former OPRC-HNS technical group is now a drafting group in charge of finalising the manuals and guidance documents prepared by correspondence groups. Two guides were on the agenda: « Recommendations for international offers of assistance for response to spill incidents", led by the United States, and "Updating of IMO guidelines on dispersant application", led by Cedre. The offers of assistance guidelines and the third part of the dispersant guidelines have been finalised and will be submitted by the PPR Sub-Committee for approval. The documents are scheduled to be released at the 68th **MEPC**.

Training in Cameroon

As part of our cooperation with SNH's Pipeline Steering and Monitoring Committee (CPSP), two trainers were sent to Cameroon from 18th to 28th January. The aim was to train personnel from three naval bases, which had recently acquired spill response equipment via CPSP. Around 70 people attended theory lectures before taking part in practical exercises in Douala, Limbé and Kribi.

PERF meeting in Brest

On 31st March and 1st April 2015, Cedre and Total will be hosting the 91st **PERF** meeting in Brest. **PERF** is a non-profit organisation created in 1986 to provide a stimulus to and a forum for the collection, exchange, and analysis of research information relating to the development of technology for health, environment & safety, waste reduction and system security in the petroleum industry. **PERF** meets twice a year (in the spring outside of the United States and in the autumn in the United States). The 2015 spring meeting will be held at **Océanopolis** in Brest, with a maximum of 90 places. The general theme of this two-day conference will be "Marine Environmental Issues". Three sessions will be held: Accidental spills, Chronic discharges and Global issues. Each session includes three to four 20-minute presentations followed by a 10-minute question and answer period. Following the three sessions, three work groups

will be set up to summarise and discuss the subjects presented. The aim for each working group is to identify then present at a plenary session a few research topics/issues which could lead to a PERF-funded research project. Alongside this meeting, a visit of the facilities at IFREMER and Cedre will be organised to give attendees insight into the activities of each of these organisations and the maritime dynamics of the Brest region. The [registration form](#) is available on the PERF website. The event is sponsored by Brest métropole.

Launch of the POSOW 2 project

The POSOW 2 project officially kicked off on 1st January 2015. Funded by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (DG ECHO) and coordinated by Cedre, this 2-year project also involves [REMPEC](#), [ISPRA](#), FEPORIS (*Instituto Portuario de Estudios y Cooperacion de la Comunidad Valenciana*, Spain), AASTMT (Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, Egypt) and DG-MARINWA (General Directorate of Maritime and Inland Waters, Turkey). POSOW 2 is a follow-up to the project POSOW 1, run in 2012 and 2013 and also funded by DG ECHO. The main aim remains to reinforce the knowledge and skills of volunteers involved in spill response in the Mediterranean area, by developing training materials and manuals and by running training courses. Following the issues of volunteer management, oiled shoreline assessment, oiled shoreline clean-up and oiled wildlife response addressed in POSOW 1, this follow-up project is set to cover the themes of waste management and assistance to fishermen involved in response on water. These two themes will be the focus of guides, posters, PowerPoint presentations and train-the-trainer manuals, produced in English by Cedre and FEPORIS respectively. All the materials developed during POSOW 1 and 2 will then be translated into Turkish by DG-MARINWA and into Arabic by AASTMT. The second year of the project will focus on training. Firstly, two 4-day train-the-trainer courses, on the 6 POSOW themes, will be organised at Cedre with cooperation from REMPEC, ISPRA and FEPORIS for 42 future trainers. The participants will be from civil protection departments, local authorities and NGOs in 7 southern Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. The trainers trained will then be tasked with running an initial national pilot training course in their own respective countries, drawing on the materials available in their language. The participants trained at Cedre or in the countries targeted by POSOW 2 will be recorded in the database developed during POSOW 1, which already lists 276 people trained during POSOW 1 in the 8 target countries at the time: Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia and Spain. For further information and for free downloads of the many training materials developed during the projects POSOW 1 and 2, please visit the website www.posow.org.

2015 Water Forum

The Loire-Brittany catchment basin committee recently adopted the draft water development and management master plan (SDAGE) for the 2016-2021 period. This document is being submitted to stakeholders for consultation, in order to gather their feedback which is to be considered prior to the plan being definitively adopted in late 2015. A cycle of "Water Forum" meetings is being organised by the Loire-Brittany Water Agency to facilitate discussions relating to this plan. Cedre attended the first meeting, held in Saint-Brieuc at the Espace Rosengart, on Thursday 8th January.

Visit from the Maritime Prefect for the Atlantic

On Monday 12th January, Vice-Admiral Emmanuel de Oliveira, Maritime Prefect for the Atlantic, visited Cedre, accompanied by his deputy, general administrator of maritime affairs Loïc Laisné, to meet with the management team, visit the site and learn of the skills and equipment available. This visit was the opportunity for Cedre to present the assistance it can provide to the French maritime authorities (Maritime Prefecture) under normal conditions and in the event of a maritime incident resulting in a spill, to support actions by the authority in charge of managing the incident.

Visit from the Sub-Prefect for Brest

On 28th January, Mr Bernard Guérin, Sub-Prefect for Brest, and Mr Jean-Paul Travers, General Secretary of the Sub-Prefecture, visited Cedre for a presentation of the association and its activities and a visit of its facilities. Cedre took this opportunity to present to the Sub-Prefect the capacities and support it is able to provide in the event of a spill affecting areas under the responsibility of the Sub-Prefecture.

A new conviction for illegal discharge

The scenario is almost always the same. This time, suspicious traces of oil were detected by a French Customs helicopter on 15th January 2014 in the wake of the chemical tanker *Deniz-s*, in French territorial waters, off Le Havre, resulting in legal proceedings by the specialised coastal court. Environmental protection associations claimed civil damages in the proceedings, with photographic evidence showing a slick 15 km long by 100 m wide. The prosecutor of Le Havre called for a €100,000 fine for the Turkish shipowner and a €50,000 fine for the captain for deliberate pollution on 14th January 2015. The defence argued that the pollution was of an "accidental nature". The court's decision is to be announced on 23rd February. According to French Customs, thanks to efficient surveillance by vessels and aircraft belonging to French government services, a clear drop in illegal discharges has been observed over the past ten years or so: 8 deliberate releases were reported in 2014 for the Channel - North Sea area, compared to an annual average of 52 around ten years ago.