



N° 235 E – News from May 2015

Emergency response

In terms of incidents, a spill of fungicide in the Seine-et-Marne area of France led to the activation of the **Transaid/ICE** network to obtain information directly from the manufacturer. The information gathered was conveyed to the local fire brigade (**CODIS 77**).

In another incident, samples of soot drifting off the coast of the Pyrénées-Atlantiques area were taken and sent to Cedre.

Our response centre also played an active role in several exercises: an ICE exercise on the 12th; on 13-14th May, an agent from Cedre was sent to join the expert committee set up by the French maritime authority in Toulon (**ORSEC** Maritime exercise); on 27-28th May, the Roches-Douvres 2015 exercise, jointly organised by the maritime authorities for the Channel/North Sea and for the Atlantic involved the activation of command centres in the Western Civil Protection Zone and the services of the Prefecture of 4 French departments (50, 35, 22, and 29). Ten agents from Cedre were mobilised for this exercise, including 5 in the field or in command centres. This exercise addressed the issues of handling a major oil spill, activating a drift prediction committee at Cedre and managing chemical risks. As part of the exercise, Cedre was required to alert the **INERIS** emergency response unit (**CASU**) and **Mar-ICE** to obtain technical advice from the industrial sector.

In short

DATES FOR THE DIARY IN JUNE

- ▶ Meeting of the Board of Governors, 23rd June
- ▶ **AMOP** Technical Seminar in Vancouver, Canada, 2nd to 4th June
- ▶ Environmental Emergencies Forum, 1st to 3rd June, Oslo, Norway
- ▶ European Bioremediation Conference in Crete, 30th June to 2nd July

Cedre wins UN Green Star Award

On 1st June 2015 in Oslo, Gilbert Le Lann, Director of the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution, received the Green Star Award in the Response category presented by Mrs Mette Løyche Wilkie, Director of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, United Nations Environment Programme. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Green Cross International established the Green Star Awards in 2007 to recognize environmental emergencies excellence in three categories: preparedness and prevention, response and environment and humanitarian action. Cedre was chosen to receive an award this year for its efforts in responding to environmental emergencies, in particular for deploying experts to the Philippines in November 2013 and to Bangladesh in the aftermath of the Sundarbans oil spill in late December 2014. Since 2006, Cedre has been mobilised 6 times to respond to environmental emergencies in the UNEP/OCHA framework: in the south of Lebanon in 2006, Kerch Strait and South Korea in 2007, the Philippines in 2008 and 2013 and more recently Bangladesh in December 2014. Most of these missions were jointly organised with the European Commission. This award, which is the United Nations highest award for Environmental Emergencies, is an international recognition for Cedre which was established 36 years ago in the aftermath of the *Amoco Cadiz* oil spill.

41st session of the Strategic Committee

On 19th May, the 41st session of Cedre's Strategic Committee held at **CETIS** was the opportunity for the committee members to discover the activities of Marseille's Navy Firefighters Battalion (BMPM). An introductory lecture by Vice-Admiral Garié, commander of the battalion, was followed by a presentation of the training centre's facilities. The equipment available to the specialised operational units (SOS) was also presented, in particular that used by **SOS Depol** (pollution response unit) and **SOS Risques Technologiques** (technological risks unit), including a mobile laboratory (vehicle for detection, identification and sampling equipped with a mass spectrometer) capable of very rapidly identifying the presence of a chemical released in the environment. This meeting was also the chance for attendees to learn more about the activities of **FOST**, an operational centre belonging to Total to which the BMPM provides support and with which Cedre regularly cooperates, for both training purposes and for response to real spills. Following these various presentations, the committee meeting mainly focused on Cedre's short and medium term priorities, in terms of investments, research projects and additional activities supported by the committee members or liable to be put forward to external contacts. The possible themes for the forthcoming Technical Day, on 18th November 2015 at Cedre, and Information Day, in spring 2016 in Paris, were discussed and are soon to be confirmed.

May training courses

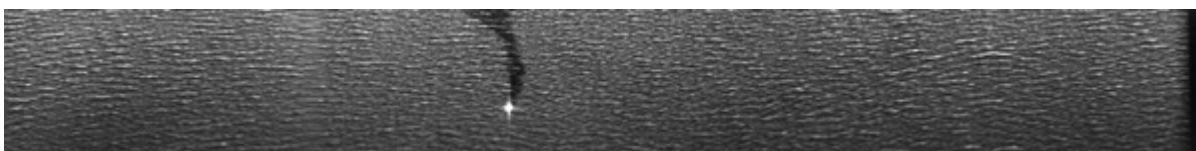
Three training actions were run this month. Our practical training course on response on the shoreline and in rivers was held from 18th to 22nd May. This course, held on the **FOST** premises in Rognac and jointly run by the Navy firefighters working for this centre, gathered 7 participants, mainly from the south of France. Meanwhile, on the 19th, a half-day training course was held in Brest for 17 officers and petty officers on their basic pollution response training at **Ceppol**. Finally, as part of the **ORSEC POLMAR** exercises held on 27th and 28th, Cedre helped to run the practical training organised by the Ille-et-Vilaine **DDTM** on the issues of surveying polluted sites and organising clean-up operations for hard surfaces and saltmarshes.

Equipment demonstration

From 26th to 29th May, an engineer from Cedre was in Bergen, Norway, to attend a presentation of the range of containment and recovery equipment offered by the manufacturers **NOFI** and **Normar**. This demonstration should prove useful in the preparation of the **NOFI Current Buster 2** trials to be organised by Cedre in September on the Loire estuary.

Polluproof at-sea trials

As part of the **Polluproof** project (funded by the French National Research Agency **ANR**), a team from Cedre took part in trials in the Mediterranean Sea, with support from the French Navy, aimed at validating the feasibility of detecting a drifting chemical slick using sensors onboard 3 planes, including the French Customs' **POLMAR** plane. This task, coordinated by **ONERA** and implemented in collaboration with the Canadian agency **DRDC**, was the opportunity to test the capacity of several sensors, including the traditional UV-Vis (ultraviolet-visible) and IR (infrared), to detect the presence of 6 very different chemicals (vegetable oil and refined products). This opportunity was also taken to study the potential of these sensors to qualify the signature of the smoke emitted by passing ships, in particular in terms of the quantity of **NOx** (nitrogen oxides). The aim is to be capable of qualifying and, if possible, quantifying operational discharge from ships.



Radar image of a vegetable oil slick taken from a plane (X-band SAR) © ONERA

Business Geographic GIS Users' Club

An agent from Cedre attended the "Users Days" run by Business Geographic (global leader in geo-business intelligence), on 21st and 22nd May 2015 in Lyon. As a user of **DYNMAP** (web mapping portal), Cedre was particularly interested in the new version of the portal, scheduled to be released in 2016, which includes some major revisions. This event was also the chance to meet project leaders and developers working on Cedre's systems (including **ARGEPOL** - pollution data management and archiving programme, pollution observation and clean-up operation monitoring) as well as other French users.

Investigation report on the grounding of the *Luno* released

On 21st May, the experts of the Spanish maritime accident investigation commission **CIAIM** (*Comisión de Investigación de Accidentes e Incidentes Marítimos*) released their investigation report on the causes of the ground of the *Luno*, which occurred on 5th February 2014 on a seawall in Anglet. The **report** points to a technical problem which arose with the engine.

Oil spill in Santa Barbara, California

On 19th May, a pipeline operated by Plains All American Pipeline ruptured, causing crude oil to pollute the Pacific Ocean and a 15-km stretch of the Californian coastline near Santa Barbara. On the 20th, measurements were taken and the company stopped the leak, while the State of California declared a state of emergency. Certain beaches were closed (Refugio State beach, El Capitan) and fishing was banned. Overflights showed a 14-km-long slick. Response operations began at sea and on the shoreline on the 20th. Considerable resources were deployed: around 15 boats on site for boom deployment and oil pumping operations. Some 30 m³ of oil was rapidly recovered. Three hundred then rapidly 900 people including volunteers were mobilised for beach clean-up operations. The leak was estimated at 400 m³, of which 80 m³ reached the ocean. The authorities are monitoring the impact of this spill on the region's abundant wildlife, in particular pelicans, sea lions and dolphins. [See here for details.](#)

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