



N° 279 E – News from May 2019

Emergency response

Following reports by the Finistère authorities (Prefecture) of 2 m³ of oil in a stream which flows into the river Horn, an expert from Cedre provided assistance in the field. The Prefecture for the Mediterranean called upon Cedre's services to analyse photos in relation to a suspected illegal discharge. The Lagarde MRCC requested technical advice following a small-scale spill. The Bouches-du-Rhône authorities (DDTM) sought Cedre's opinion to dispel doubt on the presence of tarballs mixed with Posidonia. In connection with the PLIF pipeline spill, an association enquired about our monitoring actions for flora and fauna. Finally, Cedre provided its expertise to the Prefecture for the Mediterranean, as well as the Alpes-Maritimes Operational Centre, within the framework of the RAMOGEPOL exercise.

Cedre's Strategy Committee meeting

On 14th May, the 49th meeting of Cedre's Strategy Committee was held at the OLEUM facilities in Mardyck. We were welcomed by General Manager Stéphane Rémy, who presented the centre and its activities. Located at the former site of the Flanders refinery, of which many production units have been converted into training units, this centre offers training in the fields of operations, maintenance, inspection and safety for the oil, petrochemical and gas industry. Participants at the meeting were given a tour of the technical facilities which are used to run practical exercises using life-size units. The meeting was the opportunity to review the projects in progress, to discuss the investment master plan for the coming 5 years and to initiate deliberations on our study programme for next year. It was confirmed that the next meeting (the 50th!) will be held at Cedre on 22nd November, back-to-back with the Technical Day which will focus on the **evolution of spill response techniques and equipment** and Cedre's activities in this field. Finally, the **theme of containers** was chosen for the next Information Day which will be held at the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (MTES) in Paris on **Tuesday 17th March 2020**.

"Mystery spill" pics on Instagram!

From 17th to 21st June, join in with our "mystery pics" challenge! We will be posting photos on Cedre's [Instagram account](#) (cedre_antipollution), created to mark the **40th anniversary of the very first meeting of Cedre's Board of Governors** held on 24th April 1979. This challenge is a fun and informative way of concluding our series of 40 photos for the #Cedreturns40 event.

Reckon you can correctly identify our mystery spills? Give it a go!

In short

Dates for the diary

- ▶ 25th June 2019: Meeting of Cedre's Board of Governors in Brest
- ▶ 17th to 21st June 2019: Training course on **oil spill response at sea and on the shoreline**, at Cedre
- ▶ 9th to 14th Sept. 2019: Training course on "**Oil and HNS spill response in surface waters**", in English, at Cedre
- ▶ 24th and 25th Sept. 2019: **9th congress on the Port of the future**, in Lille
- ▶ 21st November 2019: Cedre Technical Day in Brest followed on the 22nd by the 50th meeting of Cedre's Strategy Committee

Visits and presentations

- ▶ On 9th May: visit to the Seine-et-Marne fire brigade and visit to the technical training facilities in Gurcy-le-Châtel
- ▶ 20th to 24th May: 8 art students at the **University of Western Brittany** hosted for an art residency
- ▶ 23rd May: **Iroise Marine Nature Park** management committee meeting
- ▶ 28th May: **RAMOGEPOL 21** exercise organised by the **Maritime Prefecture for the Mediterranean** and involving the Monegasque authorities, the Italian Coast Guard and the Alpes-Maritimes Prefecture. We were part of the "expertise" unit, alongside **LASEM, BMPM** and **Les Abeilles**.

Training courses

- ▶ 13th to 17th May: Spill response in inland waters" training course, at Cedre, 13 participants from the Paris Fire Brigade (**BSPP**), the fire and rescue department (**SDIS**), **FOST**, the private sector and French and Caledonia administrations
- ▶ From 20th to 24th May: "Crisis management" training course, at Cedre, 20 participants.

Bonn Agreement OTSOPA working group meeting

The annual meeting of the **Bonn Agreement** OTSOPA working group was held in Southampton, UK from 21st to 23rd May and was chaired by Ronny Schallier from the **Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences**.

The participants (representatives of the contracting parties, of the Bonn Agreement Secretariat and of **EMSA/EU**) shared their experiences in terms of marine spill response. Cedre presented its work to update chapter 34 of the Bonn Agreement Counter Pollution Manual on responding to oiled wildlife.

We also presented the **HazRunOff** and **WestMOPoCo** projects and, in cooperation with the French Customs' POLMAR expert, the conclusions of the Polluproof project. Discussions were held on the incidents which recently affected this area, in particular the MSC Zoe (Germany and the Netherlands) and the Grande America (France and Spain). The next meeting is scheduled to be held from 26th to 28th May 2020 in Belgium.

CBRNE conference

On 22nd May, Cedre took part in the **3rd CBRNE Research and Innovation International Conference** in Nantes. This event tackles current scientific issues in the field of biological, chemical, radiological and nuclear risks. We were involved in a panel session on emergency tools. The aim was to present the different organisations (LASEM/SDIS, CASU, Cedre, CEA) and their missions in emergency situations (area of expertise, requesting parties...) as well as the modelling tools at their disposal: to show the variety of modelling tools (complexity, cases of use, limits) according to needs in an emergency situation and to the data available on the spill scenario; and possibly to illustrate the capacities and limits of these tools with a concrete example (spill scenario). The panel session was followed by an open discussion session on different issues: uncertainties in an emergency situation, complementarity of expert assessments, reverse calculation methods, modelling tools such as planning/scheduling and training tools, need for the 3rd dimension (3D modelling). The speakers were: Samantha LIM THIEBOT, Benjamin TRUCHOT (INERIS), Jean-Ulrich MULLOT (LASEM), Vincent GOURIOU (Cedre), Patrick ARMAND (CEA).

HNS training for a petrochemical firm in Sriracha (Thailand)

In a bid to effectively respond to a chemical spill at a loading arm or at sea, the **THAIOIL** group called on Cedre's expertise for a 3-day training course, from 14th to 16th May, at their site in Sriracha for 19 participants. This tailor-made course was designed to meet the challenges of a spill of chemicals manufactured at or transported to the Sriracha site. Learning was facilitated by the interactive approach applied and practical exercises to ensure solid preparedness and an effective approach to HNS response.

ICE meeting in Ludwigshafen (Germany)

As the France's national centre and a level 1 support centre, Cedre attended the annual meeting of the **ICE** (Intervention in Chemical transport Emergencies) scheme coordinated by **CEFIC**. The aim of this scheme is to provide several levels of assistance: remote advice, advice from an expert at the scene of an incident or assistance with personnel/equipment at the scene of an incident during chemical transport or storage. Cedre also attended this meeting in its role as a focal point of the **MAR-ICE** Network set up by **EMSA**.

CRERF visit and meeting at transboundary risk academy in Strasbourg

On 24th May, Cedre visited the River Risk Control Training Center **CRERF**, a transboundary training centre specialised in response techniques for different risks in river environments (vessel incidents, chemical risks related to the transport of hazardous substances, vessel fires, etc.) with the aim of tightening safety on the Rhine. This centre takes the form of a barge fitted out with an array of equipment to organise numerous practical training workshops. This unique training facility was developed by a Franco-German team through a European **Interreg** project, in the same way as the fireboat Europa 1 had been previously. Within this same framework of transboundary cooperation, the Académie Transfrontalière des Risques (transboundary risk academy) has recently been launched. The main goals are to create a network of experts, collect and share data as well as provide operational simulations. This academy gathers various institutional, academic, private and associational partners divided into a series of working groups. On 27th May, Cedre attended the first meeting of the "river pollution" working group, run by the Bas-Rhin fire brigade.

Fire and rescue pharmacists' alliance seminar

Cedre was invited to take part in a seminar on chemical pollution in continental waters organised by the fire and rescue service's alliance of pharmacists on 10th May at Paris-Sud University in Châtenay-Malabry. We gave two lectures on spill behaviour and response techniques to around twenty emergency services. This event was the opportunity to remind the fire departments that Cedre's missions also cover spills in continental waters.

Grounding of an ore carrier in the Solomon Islands (cont.)

The Hong Kong-registered ore carrier *Solomon Trader*, which ran aground on 5th February 2019 (see **Newsletter 276**), on the coral reefs of Rennell Island in the Solomon Islands, was successfully refloated on 11th May after 230 tonnes of fuel had been recovered from its tanks (an operation which began on 10th March) and a leak in its hull had been plugged, having contaminating 6 km of shoreline. The vessel is expected to stay in Kangava Bay for an estimated 3 to 4 weeks while its cargo of 11,000 tonnes of bauxite, bound for China, is unloaded. Once unladen, the ship must undergo an inspection before being allowed to travel to a ship breaking yard.

Fire and explosion onboard a container ship in Thailand

An incident occurred early on 25th May, in the major port of Laem Chabang, located in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand. A fire broke out onboard the South Korean container ship 1998 KMTC Hong Kong which was in dock, leading to a violent explosion. The area was declared a “danger zone”, explained the port director. Some 200 people were taken to hospital, although fortunately there were no severe injuries. According to the [Thailand Port Authority](#) (TPA), the fire could have been caused by the calcium hypochlorite present in certain containers. An investigation into the cause of the fire is being conducted by forensic police. This chemical, commonly used to treat swimming pools, is a disinfectant and bleaching agent with a tendency to self-ignite and is highly corrosive in the presence of moisture. It has been responsible for a number of incidents in past years (*CMA Djakarta* in 1999, *Charlotte Maersk* in 2010, *APL Austria* in 2017). The port authorities quickly organised fire-fighting operations. Although the fire was brought under control the same day, the port and surrounding area suffered considerable damage (debris from the explosion hit one of the main highways near the port). The fire-fighters then turned their attention to chemical contamination at sea, on land and in the air, cooling and monitoring the site (air quality controls and seawater sampling for analysis). Floating booms were deployed around the container ship. Some containers fell overboard. TPA stated on 27th that the cargo had comprised undeclared highly flammable chemicals, including 5 containers of liquid paraffin and 13 containers of calcium hypochlorite.

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