



N° 289 E – News from April 2020

Emergency response

Cedre was contacted by Aytré municipal police, Charente-Maritime, with a request to analyse tarballs. We also advised the [south-west civil protection operational centre](#), the [Pyrénées-Atlantiques/Landes DML](#), the gendarmerie and the [Landes fire brigade](#) in relation to identification, protection and response actions to be implemented following pollution in Hossegor Cap-Breton port after a pleasure boat sank. Cedre's duty team helped to identify occurrences of pollution, providing support to [Lagarde MRCC](#) in relation to a slick located near Cap Bear and to [Corsica MRCC](#) in relation to a suspected spill south of Bastia, which was in fact due to the presence of pollen. [Corsen MRCC](#) held discussions with the duty team on the refloating operation for the wreck of kelp harvesting vessel *Nautilus*, near the Molène islands, and any potential leaks during the operation by divers to seal off the fuel tank. Cedre advised [REMPEC's OPRC](#) correspondent in Morocco on the transshipment operation of the cargo of diesel (6,000 tonnes) and petrol (800 tonnes) from an oil tanker grounded in the port of Dakhla to another oil tanker belonging to the same shipowner in order to lighten and refloat it. Cedre also advised the port of Reunion Island following a spill of hydraulic oil in the basin of the [Grand Port Maritime de la Réunion](#) (following a fire). Finally, the ICE mechanism was activated three times in April for two exercises and one actual spill. Cedre was activated during a first exercise by [BASF Antwerp](#) to provide information on isopropanol (UN 1219) and a second by the Swedish national ICE focal point to identify the risks and initial safety measures for dissolved acetylene (UN 1001). The third activation concerned a leak of phthalic anhydride (UN 2214) from the flange in the base of a road tanker at Libercourt, Pas-de-Calais.

Cedre supports COVID-19 healthcare workers

Cedre demonstrated its support for healthcare workers by donating its stock of masks, coveralls, shoe covers, overspecs and gloves to [Red Cross](#) volunteers at the Brest Arena temporary COVID-19 medical consultation centre. [See it in pictures.](#)

Cedre's organisation during lockdown

Throughout the month of April, with France under lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all of Cedre's employees were working from home, or for some on furlough for childcare reasons or working part-time, depending on each situation. Only Cedre's Management Committee continued to work on the premises on a rota, with the Director and two Deputy Directors alternately present, as well as the head of the Administration Department, who had her work cut out drawing up the financial statement to be submitted to the statutory auditor prior to the next board meeting and ensuring the administrative follow-up of employees working from home or part-time. Emergency response being Cedre's primary mission, our emergency hotline continued to be run 24/7 by our duty engineers. These officers continued to work, on a rota, to provide advice to some of our partners, faced with pollution incidents which did not require on-site call-outs, although a team was available to be deployed across France or abroad if necessary. In late April, the focus was on preparing for the lifting of lockdown measures in order to ensure the gradual resumption of activity from Monday 11th May, a milestone marking the end of this unprecedented period during which Cedre demonstrated its capacity to hold its course and fulfil its operational contract.

2019 in pictures

► A year in review video featuring the highlights of our activity in 2019, with 5 main themes (responding, analysing, assessing, disseminating and training) is available [on our Youtube channel 'Cedre Brest'](#). It reflects the dynamism, perpetual innovation and diversity of our activities.

In short Training

- 7th to 11th September, oil spill response in inland waters
- 14th to 18th September: oil spill response at sea and on the shoreline
- 28th September to 1st October, pollution crisis management

Hot off the press

- The [English language version](#) of the operational guide "Accidental Water Pollution by Hazardous and Noxious Substances" (160 p)

Cedre remotely hosts parliamentary delegation to focus on plastic pollution

Given that the initially scheduled meeting and tour of our facilities was not possible, a videoconference was organised on 27th April with OPECST, the French **Parliamentary Office for evaluation of scientific and technological options** (joint body belonging both to the National Assembly and the Senate), which has been tasked with conducting a study on plastic pollution. This virtual meeting was attended by Mr Philippe Bolo, MP for Maine-et-Loire, and Ms Angèle Préville, Senator for Lot, who are the designated rapporteurs for the study in question. Parliamentary councillor Ms Sandrine Von Campenhausen was also present. Two engineers presented Cedre's activities and our public policy support mission under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) as well as three projects in which we are heavily involved: **CleanAtlantic** (tackling marine litter in the Atlantic Area), **OceanWise** (wise reduction of EPS marine litter in the North-East Atlantic Ocean), and **MICMAC** (MICroplastic, MACroplastic: an assessment of pollution levels in the Scattered Islands in the Indian Ocean).

ISOWAT project comes to an end

The ISOWAT project, launched in 2017 in partnership with **YLEC Consultants**, came to completion last March with the delivery of the final report to **TOTAL**. This project, funded via **EVOLEN's** open innovation programme **CITEPH**, aimed to develop an industrial prototype for treating wastewater during exploratory drilling and oil production operations. This prototype includes a flotation column used to extract solid particles from the water column by causing them to coalesce at the surface by microflotation, i.e. the opposite process to settling. Cedre evaluated the effectiveness of this process by comparing the particle load of the water before and after the microflotation stage. The final presentation meeting which was scheduled to be held at TOTAL's premises in Pau has been postponed.

HNS guide now available in English!

A collaborative project between Canada and France recently culminated in the publication of a French language operational guide on preparedness and response to spills of Hazardous and Noxious Substances at sea or in inland waters. It is now available in English and can be downloaded free of charge [here](#). This new guide was developed in partnership with **Transport Canada** with a view to providing relevant information for all levels of HNS incident management, from first responders to decision-makers. To ensure a practical approach, this guide is divided into two interdependent parts. The first part provides a concise description of the methodological approach and the main points to bear in mind for preparedness and response, with many references to the second part of the guide. This second part comprises more than 50 operational factsheets that can be used independently and describe the strategies and techniques to implement relevant and effective actions for preparedness but also during and after the emergency response. This guide, together with existing contingency plans, acts as a decision support tool to manage the complexity of HNS spill situations in oceans, rivers and lakes. This international collaboration between Transport Canada and Cedre is a natural sequel to the initial project involving the production of a learning guide and website, www.chemical-pollution.com, designed to provide a fuller understanding of chemical pollution at sea.

Oil spill in Ecuador

On 7th April, three SOTE (Trans-Ecuadorian Oil Pipeline System) pipelines transporting crude oil and fuel ruptured following a landslide in the east of Ecuador, causing oil pollution in the Coca river (a sub-tributary of the Amazon). This pollution crossed the border into Peru after reaching the Napo river. The quantity spilt is unknown, however response operations (boom laying, clean-up of the banks) supervised by **EP Petroecuador** and **OCP Ecuador** continue to be carried out on 40 sites, with over 500 people mobilised according to **EP Petroecuador**. An estimated 27,000 people have been affected by the spill (figures from NGO **Amazon Frontlines**).

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