



Cedre NEWSLETTER

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Information Day 2009

A date for the diary.
Our next Information Day will be held on
Thursday 5 March 2009
on the theme of
**"Accidental water pollution, impact of
statutory and regulatory evolutions"**
Discussions will focus on spill prevention,
preparedness, response, sanctions and restoration.
The programme and registration form will soon be
available from www.cedre.fr

Emergency response

Although November saw no major emergencies, it was nevertheless a time of numerous solicitations for incidents and accidents ranging from classic cases to quite unusual ones: problems involving fuel tanks in Haute-Savoie, car oil in Loire-Atlantique due to a rise in the level of the Loire river, domestic fuel in the cellar of a private home in Saint Pierre and Miquelon. Six drift predictions using the software Mothy were carried out following discharge from ships. Two pollution incidents also occurred in ports and harbours: a heavy fuel oil spill in the port of Jarry (Pointe-à-Pitre) and a spill of glycerine from a leaking container in Montoir.

Several exercises also mobilised the *Cedre* response centre: Polmar exercises in New Caledonia and Martinique and exercises involving chemicals, in particular hydrazine, potassium cyanide and benzene.

Several requests for information and advice were addressed to *Cedre* including requests concerning the situation of Lithuania regarding the Montego Bay Convention following a spill in the Mediterranean Ecological Protection Zone by a Lithuanian vessel, the Marpol classification of olive oil, the management of oiled solid waste and sorbents and the manual recovery of tar balls. Finally, an unusual accident for *Cedre*, a plane crash at sea involving an airliner performing a trial flight led us to answer questions on the risks, drift and weathering of a slick of jet fuel at sea.

New Secretary General of the Sea

The French Prime Minister's decree of 30 October 2008 appointed Mr Jean-François Tallec as Secretary General of the Sea, taking over from Mr Xavier de la Gorce. Jean-François Tallec is 61 years old and a former merchant navy officer. Having entered the Maritime Affairs administration then later the prefectorial body within which he held various responsibilities in mainland and overseas France, Mr Tallec was promoted in 2001 to Prefect of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon then of Indre, Yonne, and finally, a year ago, appointed Prefect of Dordogne. *Cedre* thanks Mr Xavier de la Gorce for his confidence throughout these past four years and assures Mr Tallec of its ongoing support in his mission of coordinating the action of the French State at sea.

Strategic Committee

The members of *Cedre's* Strategic Committee met for the 14th year running in Brest on 28 November for the 28th session. After evoking *Cedre's* main activities over the past 6 months, this meeting was mainly centred around the presentation of 40 proposals for the 2009 technical programme and expressions of interest on behalf of the

In short

VISITS TO CEDRE

- ▶ On 4th, 12 student navy aviation officers
- ▶ On 6th, Mrs Agnès Vince, Assistant Director for the shoreline and marine environment, MEEDDAT
- ▶ On 19th, a delegation of MPs and members of the UK authorities (Devon and Cornwall) as part of a study trip in collaboration with Brittany's local authorities
- ▶ On 20th, Captain Travert, deputy chief of operations CECLANT and Captain Postec, Commander of COM Brest (*Centre Opérationnel de la Marine*)
- ▶ On 26th, 11 students from the *Ecole des affaires maritimes*

TRAINING

- ▶ On 13th and 14th, at *Cedre*, training course on "Actors of the maritime world", 25 participants
- ▶ From 17th to 19th, Polmar training course in Marseille, for State agents and local authorities of Bouches-du-Rhône, Var, Alpes-Maritimes, Gard and Aude, 23 participants
- ▶ From 24th to 26th, at *Cedre*, training course on response to chemical spills at sea, in ports and harbours and in rivers, 23 participants.

PUBLICATIONS

- ▶ Chemical response guides (English):
Phosphoric acid and **Methyl methacrylate**
- ▶ Chemical response guide (French):
Méthacrylate de Méthyle Stabilisé

committee members. The session sparked off rich discussions, both in relation to the activity overview and the project proposals, affirming *Cedre's* orientations, but also highlighting the growing demands of its partners in terms of output. Generally speaking, the proposals presented for 2009 were favourably received and the support anticipated should enable total or partial realisation of most of the actions put forward.

6th Technical Day

This day, held on 27 November 2008, was designed for Strategic Committee members as well as a wider audience and was dedicated to *Cedre's* involvement, on the one hand, in research projects on the behaviour of chemicals and, on the other hand, in the improvement of the of running and the tools available to the drift prediction committee. The first theme was the opportunity to present the work of a PhD student carried out at *Cedre*. The second was the chance to demonstrate the complementary contributions of the different members of the drift prediction committee during the *Prestige* spill and to encourage meetings of the members at times other than in the event of a major spill.

A work of reference

We would like to inform you of the recent release of a publication on the operation of tankers (oil tankers, chemical tankers, gas carriers), covering topics ranging from the physical properties of their cargoes to their polluting potential, their classification, the fire hazards involved, the toxicological risks, construction standards, washing and degassing of tanks and the incompatibility of different products. The book is entitled "L'exploitation des navires-citernes" and is published in French by S. Laignel for INFOMER - editor (424 pages).

Rapace project closure

On 25 October 2008, *Cedre* took part in the RAPACE project closure meeting, part of the PRECODO programme (coordinated by ADEME and funded by the French National Research Agency), held in the presence of all the technical and financial project partners, in Cassis on the premises of Géocéan, the project leader. A positive overall project review was presented as well as the prototype of an autonomous airborne detection vehicle which can be deployed from a vessel, to which it is attached by an umbilical cable.

Mission and conference in Lebanon

In response to a request from the Total Lebanon branch, an engineer from *Cedre's* Contingency Planning Department spent a week in Beirut. Total Lebanon owns an oil depot (petrol and diesel storage) at the oil plant of Dora, located north of the commercial port of Beirut. In a bid to respond to a specific issue concerning unloading via a sealine, *Cedre* was made responsible for drafting a maritime contingency plan, identifying potential spill scenarios, response techniques for such scenarios, as well as technical recommendations of equipment to purchase. On the last day of the mission, a conference was held on response to marine oil pollution (principles, techniques, international conventions and contingency planning) for around 40 people representing several Lebanese authorities and administrations as well as industry.

ITOPF: leadership change announced

The website of the [International Tankers Owners Pollution Federation](#) announces the forthcoming retirement of its Managing Director Tosh Moller in May 2009 and states that he will be replaced by Karen Purnell. Currently one of three Technical Team Managers, Karen Purnell has been working for ITOPF since 1994. She and Tosh Moller share not only their height, but the high esteem in which they are held by *Cedre*. We wish Tosh Moller a happy retirement and every success to Karen Purnell in her new role.

Nigeria: spill statistics

Sabotage and theft continue to make Nigeria one of the world's oil spill black spots: the website [allAfrica.com](#) announces, in an article dated 29 October 2008, that the National Spill Detection Agency reportedly recorded 418 oil spills of varying volumes during the first half of 2008. If we compare this with the yearly averages for the periods 1976-1996 and 1997-2007, for which the figures are respectively 422 and 419, it appears that the frequency of spills has doubled... or perhaps it is the efficiency of the information collection system which has doubled.

Switzerland: fluorescent blue spills

You are no doubt familiar (without, of course, ever having triggered them) with the concept of products which colour the water around swimmers who relieve themselves in the swimming pool. The site [cleantechnica.com](#) announced in an article dated 1st October 2008, the development by the University of Lausanne of a bacteria which glows blue when in contact with oil and could therefore be used to detect illicit discharge. The article does not however comment on how the inventors propose to introduce a sufficient quantity of the bacteria into the marine areas needing monitoring.