



Cedre NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication
by the Centre of Documentation, Research and
Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution

N° 190 E – News from April 2011

Emergency response

Over and above the usual requests for drift predictions and for information on chemicals, the Emergency Response Department concentrated mainly on an incident during the unloading of a cargo of sulphur from a vessel in New Caledonia. The main concerns were the quality of the product and the presence of water and acids liable to affect the integrity and safety of responders. *Cedre* activated the European **Mar-ICE** network.

Mar-ICE convention

On 4 April, the Director of *Cedre* and the head of the Emergency Response Department took part in a meeting organised at **EMSA** headquarters in Lisbon. During this meeting, at which a representative of the Irish Coast Guard and a representative of CEFIC were present, different options relating to the renewal of the *Cedre*/EMSA convention were discussed, given that the services provided by *Cedre* were considered entirely satisfactory by the contracting organisations.

Mothy model: version 3.3

In late April, an upgrade was made to the **Mothy** drift prediction software. Until now, only mainland France and the south-west of the Indian Ocean were covered by a high resolution atmospheric model: ALADIN-Réunion. The ALADIN range of high resolution models for overseas France has been extended to three new geographical areas: Antilles/Guiana, French Polynesia and New Caledonia. The horizontal resolution of 0.1° in latitude-longitude provides better representation of local phenomena, in particular inshore.

Training course in Noumea

Upon request by the New Caledonian spill response committee, *Cedre* ran a practical training course on spill response techniques (11-15 April, 24 participants) and a "Crisis Management" course (18-22 April, 16 participants). The participants were from the French Navy, Maritime Affairs, the nickel mining companies SLN and KNS, the towing company SOWEMAR, Total Pacifique, SOGADOC (gas depot), SWAFEPP (Société Wallisienne et Futunienne d'Entreposage de Produits Pétroliers), Exxon Mobil, the Merchant Navy service of the New Caledonian Government, the major risk delegation of the South Province and the *Brigade des Gardes-Nature* of the North Province. These two courses were preceded by a POLMAR Sea exercise organised by the French Navy in cooperation with SWAFEPP in Wallis. *Cedre's* Caribbean delegate and the head of its Training Department took part in the exercise in Wallis, upon request by Total Pacifique, and ran the two courses. This assignment was the opportunity to share the experience acquired in the Caribbean region with New Caledonia and to benefit from the knowledge and experience of participants from different public and private sector services in New Caledonia.

April training courses

This year, *Cedre* took part in the course on "Incident response techniques and emergency response organisation", organised by **CNFPT** Bretagne for port officers and auxiliaries along the French coastline. The first three groups, each of around twenty participants, were trained on 1st, 5th and 6th April in Vannes.

Two members of the Training Department led a theory and practical course on coastal oil spill response for Force 06 agents (Force Opérationnelle Risques Catastrophes Environnement des Alpes-Maritimes). Organised by the Alpes-Maritimes **CNFPT**, this course was held in Villefranche-sur-Mer from 18 to 22 April and involved 19 participants.

The same team of trainers then ran a theory and practical course on coastal and port oil spill response, organised by Rivages ProTech (a subsidiary of Lyonnaise des Eaux) for representatives of the ports in Alpes-Maritimes. On 27 April, the 12 participants attended a one-day theory course in Mougins. On 28th, they practiced boom deployment and clean-up worksite set-up in the Old Port of Cannes.

In short

TRAINING

► "Aerial observation of pollution at sea" training course, session 1, from 11th to 13th, 16 participants (French Navy, Customs and MRCC)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

► *Safer Seas* "Towards safer and cleaner seas" 10-13 May 2011, Brest

► **International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC)** 23-26 May 2011, Portland, Oregon

► *Festival Quartier des sciences*, Brest, May 2011. In connection with this event, *Cedre* will be presenting an exhibition at the University Library of the Science Faculty in Brest throughout the month of May

HOT OFF THE PRESS

► **Editions Elsevier** has just released "Oil Spill Science and Technology" (M. Fingas).

ICOPCE 2011 in Singapore

The head of the Emergency Response Department took part in the International Chemical and Oil Pollution Conference and Exhibition (ICOPCE) 2011. This event was organised by the Singapore Maritime Port Authority (MPA) with which *Cedre* has had connections for several years. This conference was followed by an exercise involving a major benzene spill. *Cedre* took part in the crisis management unit as an adviser to the authorities. This exercise was the opportunity to audit the MPA Chemical Contingency Plan.

Arcopol conference in Cardiff

A delegation from *Cedre* attended the 5th international Arcopol conference, organised by Pembrokeshire County Council in Cardiff on 6 and 7 April. Three presentations were given by *Cedre* on the accidents involving the *Ece* and the *Ievoli Sun*, and on the tools developed through the project's work package 5, led by the regions of Brittany and Aquitaine. The Argepol data management and archiving programme and the CD-Rom of *Cedre's* learning guide on oil spills were also described during a practical session. An awareness-raising video on spill response techniques and three operational guides ("Local Authorities' Guide", "Management of Volunteers in Coastal Pollution Response" and "Involvement of Sea Professionals in Spill Response Operations") were presented in very advanced versions and met with great success among the Welsh local authorities. These documents are currently being adapted and will soon be translated into English, Spanish and Portuguese, so as to be finalised by the end of 2011 and made available to the four partner countries.

Cameroon: national contingency plan reinforced

With a view to creating a spill alert reception centre in Yaoundé and several equipment storage centres in coastal regions, *Cedre* took part, alongside its partner the Maintenance Inspection Conseil (MIC), in an assessment mission on the Limbé, Douala and Kribi sites. Initially, the response means will be defined for small incidents. A training programme is also under consideration so as to reinforce the response capacities of the State services.

SEP Congo develops contingency plans for inland waters

SEP (Société des Entreprises Pétrolières Congolaises) continues to update its contingency planning. An engineer from *Cedre* was sent to Kisangani and Kinshasa for a pollution risk assessment of the depots and wharfs on the Congo and Kasai rivers. Technical recommendations on incident management are currently under preparation. Specific contingency plans for these sites will be produced to complete the SEP Congo contingency plan.

Abidjan Convention: creation of a regional centre

During the 9th meeting of the Parties to the Abidjan Convention held in Ghana at the beginning of April, the governments of 19 of the 22 African countries bordering the east, central and south coasts of the Atlantic Ocean agreed to create a regional centre for cooperation in the event of an oil spill (or other related emergency).

Deepwater Horizon: BP sues Transocean and Cameron International

A year after the accident that cost 11 lives and released around 800,000 m³ of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, while controversies remain over the fate and impact of the dispersed oil and certain scientists criticize the time taken to set up research and study programmes on the impacts of the spill, BP filed a suit on 19 April in a federal court in New Orleans against Transocean, the rig owner, and Cameron, the blow out preventer manufacturer. BP, seeking over 40 billion dollars for damages and other costs, hopes that all responsibilities will be assumed.

[Unsubscribe from the Cedre Newsletter](#)

Think green - don't print out your emails!

[Legal information](#)

[Contact us](#)