



Cedre NEWSLETTER

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Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution

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Emergency response

April was marked by five exercises. On the 13th, an **ICE** exercise was run, involving enquiries to the Swedish National ICE Centre, while the previous day we responded to a request from the Spanish support centre. On the 18th, **MRCC** Dublin activated the **MAR-ICE** network for an exercise. On the same day, a refinery mobilised *Cedre's* response centre. Finally, the **BALAOU** 2012 exercise (Martinique) mobilised the response centre on the 24th, as well as our Caribbean Delegate on site. Together we responded to the requests of Martinique's Director of the Sea.

During April, we were involved in the response to a number of spills, in particular a spill of heating oil into a river, requiring a member of the **EPIF** team to be sent on site. A road accident required the activation of the Transaid network, for which *Cedre* is the support centre for north-west France. On 11 April, a water treatment company requested information in order to neutralise the effects of an accidental release from a wastewater treatment plant, located in the Persian Gulf. Finally, on 28 April, a leak of initially undetermined liquids into a rainwater retention basin occurred at a factory in Normandy.

In short

TRAINING

► From 2nd to 5th, maritime pollution crisis management course, session 1, 13 participants

CEDRE PUBLICATIONS



► Information Bulletin n°28 is now out. This issue focuses on the *Deepwater Horizon* accident. It is available [here](#) and, upon request, from the resource centre.

EXHIBITIONS

► On the 6th, the ocean discovery park Océanopolis officially inaugurated its temporary exhibition "*Voyage Abyssal*" on life in the depths of the oceans.

Information session on HNS transport

On 12 April, a **DGPR** agent spent the morning at *Cedre* presenting the evolution of the various national and international regulations (**IMO**) on **HNS** transport by sea, according to their physical properties and packaging. In addition to *Cedre* staff (duty officers and **EPIF** team), Port State Control officers, the commandant of the Brest Naval Fire Service, the harbourmaster of Brest Port and port officers from Brest and Lorient were also present.

Quartiers des sciences

Every year, a unique scientific and technical event is held, offering the opportunity for all to discover science: "Quartiers de sciences". This year, to mark the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, the festival focused on the theme of energy. On Wednesday 25th, *Cedre* ran a stand entitled "What is oil?" at the **UBO** Faculty of Sciences and Techniques. Over 300 young visitors were able to discover where oil comes from, how it is refined and how it is transported across the world's oceans, which sometimes, unfortunately, can cause accidents.

ECCAS Maritime Safety Seminar

From 16 to 20 April, one of *Cedre's* Deputy Directors took part in a subregional training seminar at Pointe-Noire in the Republic of Congo, organised by KSI Maritime for the **ECCAS** Member States. This seminar came under PAPS II, the second EU support programme for peace and security for ECCAS countries. The seminar gathered some thirty representatives of the subregion's 9 countries. A visit of the Regional Maritime Security Center of Central Africa (CRESMAC), currently under construction, was organised at the end of the seminar.

SONARA training/exercise, Limbe, Cameroon

As part of a programme to update its contingency planning documents, SONARA (Limbe, Cameroon) contracted *Cedre*, in 2007, to revise its maritime contingency plan. This task also resulted in technical recommendations being made by *Cedre* in terms of response equipment to support the selection and purchase, in late 2011, by SONARA of specialised spill response equipment. In a second phase, the Environment Department managers decided to organise a training course, with support from *Cedre*, aiming to raise the awareness of both supervisors and operators as to the implementation of this contingency plan. In mid-April, two agents from *Cedre's* Contingency Planning Department ran a theoretical and practical training course that aimed to present the plan and the main strategies defined, deploy equipment for dispersion, dynamic trawling, containment, recovery and storage, and run a tabletop crisis management exercise. Just under fifty participants took part in this course (19 operators and 14 decision-makers from SONARA, as well as 14 staff from FAKOSHIP).

Meeting of the Oil Spill Identification Network of Experts (OSINET)

From 24 to 26 April, *Cedre* hosted the annual meeting of the Oil Spill Identification Network of Experts (OSINET). Set up in 1995 by the eight member States of the [Bonn Agreement](#) (Agreement for cooperation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil and other harmful substances between Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom), it now also includes representatives of Australia, Brazil, China, Estonia, Finland, South Korea and Spain. In July 2011, *Cedre* prepared and sent seven samples of weathered oil to the members of OSINET for analysis and identification. For three days, the 23 participants at the meeting compared their results, discussed their analysis methods and organised the tests for the following year. This international analysis network can be mobilised in the event of a major spill.

POLMAR correspondents meeting at DAM

Every year, [DAM](#) organises a plenary meeting for its correspondents representing mainland France and overseas French territories. In 2012, this meeting was held from 3 to 5 April at [MEDDTL](#) and two agents from *Cedre* took part. Feedback from [DDTM](#) on the [TK Bremen](#) incident was presented. *Cedre* presented the progress of the specific POLMAR Land provision to ensure that all POLMAR correspondents obtained the necessary information with regard to the revision of departmental contingency plans. The exercises conducted in 2011 were presented by Guadeloupe and Corsica and the 2012 training and exercise programme was outlined by DAM.

New Caledonia - North Province

Within the framework of its environmental management policy and to comply with legal requirements, Koniambo Nickel SAS (KNS) contracted *Cedre* to update its maritime contingency plan, produced in 2007 during the construction of Vavouto port, located near Koné in the North Province. During the on-site mission, from 22 March to 5 April 2012, two engineers from the Contingency Planning Department conducted a field survey, a risk assessment and defined spill scenarios for the new Koniambo site port facilities. The visits and interviews with KNS managers helped to better understand the overall operation of the Koniambo site and Vavouto port (in particular the high volumes of diesel which will be transferred during the operational phase). The territorial authorities in Noumea were also informed and consulted. The potential spill scenarios were thus updated and should lead to a revision of the response organisation and response equipment requirements in case of a spill in the lagoon. The new maritime contingency plan is to be delivered to KNS shortly.

TK Bremen: BEAmer report released

On 17 April, the French Marine Accident Investigation Office [BEAmer](#) released its [report](#) on the [TK Bremen](#) accident. It lays the blame on the captain, who was unable to control his ship's position at anchor. Furthermore, BEAmer recommends that French regulations should be revised in order to include a complete transposition of Directive 2002/59/EC, enabling better exchange of information between captains and port authorities in the case of particularly adverse weather conditions.

New powers for EMSA?

An informal agreement concluded on 12 April between the European Parliament and the Danish Presidency could extend [EMSA's](#) powers in order to strengthen cooperation against piracy, improve seafarer training, create the future European maritime space without barriers and reinforce the Agency's role in preventing pollution from offshore oil and gas platforms. This possible extension of the Agency's responsibilities is set to be discussed and approved by the members of the European Parliament.

Deepwater Horizon: BP reaches out-of-court settlement

Two years after the [Gulf of Mexico oil spill](#), while the ecological impacts of the spill are still being felt, BP has announced the signature of a \$7.8 billion agreement with claimants. This agreement is awaiting court approval, while a former BP engineer was arrested on 24 April for allegedly destroying evidence and several claims remain pending.

Elgin platform (North Sea): plugging and diversion operations underway

Following surveys conducted in early April and the extinction of the flare, preparatory work is underway to plug the leak detected on 25 March. A diverter has been fitted to the G4 wellhead to reinforce safety for operators involved in the Top Kill operation which consists of plugging the leak by injecting drilling mud. Meanwhile, drilling of the first relief well has begun. [See here for details.](#)

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