



## Cedre NEWSLETTER

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Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution

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#### Emergency response

June was marked by the organisation of the **ORSEC** Maritime Atlantic exercise on the 19th and 20th, in which *Cedre* took part both on site (on-land incident management unit) and remotely, from its response centre which was reinforced for the exercise. Four agents were mobilised to run slick drift and behaviour simulations. On 11 June, a call was received from a refinery that had simulated the activation of its contingency plan as part of an exercise and was seeking information on the types of booms to be used following a pipeline rupture. An **ICE** exercise was also conducted on the 18th, involving a spill of Chlorine Trifluoride. The Emergency Response Department was also called upon, as a preventative measure, on the 7th, by the Channel and North Sea *Préfecture Maritime* to identify the main risks in the event of a Pygas release. This product was being transported by a vessel that had issued a distress call, but engine power was restored within a reasonable time frame. The Transaid network was also activated on the 7th by **COGIC**, following a 600-litre spill of a German product that was believed to be hazardous, for which the Hérault fire brigade only had the trade name. The German **ICE** focal point rapidly send information and a MSDS in French. On the 11th, Etel MRCC contacted *Cedre* in its search for information on the hazardous nature of a product declared by a vessel without a UN number or **IMO** class: 27 % Calcium Ammonium Nitrate in big bags and bulk. On the 18th, drift modelling was sent to La Garde MRCC following the detection of an oil slick, 7 km long by 0.5 km wide, by a French Navy surveillance aircraft. Finally, *Cedre* pursued its monitoring efforts on inland water incidents and contacted the relevant fire brigades to exchange information on the survey methods, operations and response strategies envisaged.

#### June training courses

June was a busy month in terms of training. In addition to the training course in Morocco presented below, *Cedre* also ran, in collaboration with **CETMEF** and the Martinique Maritime Directorate, an awareness-raising day for local councillors on their responsibilities in case of a spill on 5th June in Fort-de-France (18 participants), followed by a practical three-day course (6-8 June) for the technical departments and fire brigades (19 participants). The same week, from 4 to 8 June, a practical course on response in inland waters was held at *Cedre* for 17 participants. On 19 June, a trainer was sent to **ENSOSP** in Aix-en-Provence to contribute to the level 4 chemical and biological risk training course (RCH4, 13 participants). Finally, from the 25th to 29th, two courses were held at *Cedre* simultaneously: the first was a practical course for 14 Seine-et-Marne fire fighters and the second a theory course for 22 participants on shoreline pollution management and the **ORSEC** POLMAR-Land system.

#### Training courses in Morocco

*Cedre* was awarded a tender launched by the Secretary of State in charge of Water and Environment, under the Kingdom of Morocco's Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment, for two training courses. A trainer ran an initial course on marine spill management in Rabat from the 5th to 7th. This course was organised by the Environment Department on its premises and was attended by 25 participants from various Moroccan administrations involved in response at sea and on shore. The second session will concern spills in inland waters and is planned for September.

#### High viscosity gel injection trials

Total R&D Deep Offshore has called upon **Ifremer** and *Cedre* to assess the possibility of injecting high viscosity gels for deepwater subsea applications with standard response equipment. Using our trial facilities, comparative trials were conducted on three gels in June in one of *Cedre's* refrigerated rooms at low temperature (4°C) and atmospheric pressure.

#### In short

##### MEETINGS

- ▶ On 12th, meeting of the *Cedre* Board of Governors, Brest
- ▶ On 13th, meeting of the steering committee on the establishment of POLMAR-Land framework agreements for contracting and procurement procedures in case of spills in the Western defence zone.

##### CEDRE PUBLICATIONS



- ▶ The *Cedre* 2011 annual report is available in French at [www.cedre.fr](http://www.cedre.fr)

##### WEBSITE

- ▶ Munitions dumped in European waters  
Raising awareness of the risk generated by munitions dumped at sea. For more information, see our [case file](#).

## Cedre at Brest maritime festival

This summer, *Cedre* will be taking part in the maritime festival Tonnerres de Brest 2012, where it will be running a stand in the Maritime Science and Technology Area, from 13 to 18 July. Four themes will take you on a journey to discover projects run by marine science partners: "Sea level changes", "Ocean/atmosphere interface", "Marine life faced with global change" and "Adaptation of human societies to these changes". *Cedre* will be addressing the last topic. Through visual aids, video clips, animations and demonstrations, you will have the chance to find out all about response to accidental water pollution. In the event of an oil spill, is the response the same in Arctic waters as off the coast of Brittany?

## AMOP Technical Seminar

The 35th Arctic and Marine Oilspill Program (AMOP) Technical Seminar was held from 5 to 7 June in Vancouver (Canada). At this event, 4 agents from *Cedre* presented several studies conducted using original tools developed in house on the fate of oil and chemicals at sea, the efficiency of surfwashing according to the degree of weathering of oil trapped in sediment and the latest analytical developments in terms of characterisation of the dissolved fraction of oil. The learning guide "[Understanding Chemical Pollution at Sea](#)", produced in partnership with Transport Canada, was also presented and widely distributed. The seven conferences presented at this forum were the opportunity to promote *Cedre's* know-how and to develop future international collaboration. Alongside the seminar, two agents took part in an aerial surveillance mission onboard a Dash 8 belonging to Transport Canada, during which four confirmed pollutions were detected.

## Workshop in Alaska

From 19 to 21 June, *Cedre* took part in a workshop in Anchorage (Alaska) on the biodegradation and impact of dispersed oil in Arctic waters. Sponsored by oil companies Exxon, ConocoPhillips, Statoil and Shell, this workshop was organised by NewFields and the University of Alaska Fairbanks for the authorities involved in the American Arctic environment. Various North American and European experts presented the research in progress on the environmental effects of dispersed oil. The aim remains to develop computer models to predict these effects to support decision-making in case of a spill on whether or not to use dispersants. The approach, from various points of view, remains very academic, often focusing on general issues (e.g. the potential impact on Arctic cod based on the dynamics of fish populations, the degradation potential analysed with metagenomics...).

## Ria d'Etel Infra-POLMAR kick-off meeting

On 1st June, the Ria d'Etel joint commission organised the kick-off meeting in Belz for its Infra-POLMAR initiative. This initiative, which had been under preparation for a number of months, gained momentum following the grounding of the *TK Bremen* near the mouth of the Ria, raising awareness of the importance of rapidly implementing suitable spill response measures. *Cedre* was represented by its Director at this meeting that was jointly organised by [Vigipol](#).

## Marine Strategy Framework Directive

On 27 June, the advisory group on the national implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive met in La Défense. This meeting, attended by *Cedre's* Director, was the opportunity to review in detail the progress of actions on the future programme, the objective being to implement the action plan in France from 2016 and to achieve good environmental status in marine waters by 2020.

## Blue Mass Med closure meeting

On 6 June, the Director of *Cedre* attended the closure meeting of European project Blue Mass Med, which aimed to define the architecture of the future pan-European maritime surveillance network that will allow interoperability among all existing and future national systems, in order to optimise the efficiency in the use presently made of maritime patrolling and surveillance resources. This project involved partners from France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain. A demonstration of the system was organised alongside the conferences and round tables at which the results were presented.

## Oil spill in Red Deer River, Alberta

An oil spill was caused by a pipeline rupture on 7 June, polluting a tributary of Red Deer River, in Alberta, south-west Canada. An estimated 150 to 500 m<sup>3</sup> (1,000 to 3,000 barrels) of light sour crude oil was spilt, threatening the drinking water supply of the 90,000 inhabitants of Red Deer. The operating company Plains Midstream Canada stopped pipeline operations and shut the valves as soon as the leak was discovered, as well as setting up floating booms. Clean-up operations began rapidly and water samples were taken twice a day to check their quality.

Think green - don't print out your emails!