



## N° 242 E – News from January 2016

### Emergency response

The month of January was relatively calm. The main task for Cedre's Emergency Response team was an exercise involving a chemical tanker carrying heptane and whose damaged tanks were leaking. Cedre provided information on the behaviour and risks in particular for responders (explosion, toxicity). As of 27th January, Cedre monitored operations involving the ro-ro vessel *Modern Express* drifting in the Bay of Biscay. The ship had 22 crew members on board, who were airlifted to safety, as well as a cargo of wood, 308 m<sup>3</sup> of bunker fuel, 180 m<sup>3</sup> of diesel and 43 m<sup>3</sup> of lubricants. The shipowner was given official notice, by the French Maritime Prefect for the Atlantic, to control the hazardous situation by 9 am on 28th January. The shipowner mobilised private resources and submitted an action plan to the Maritime Prefect, which he accepted on 29th January. The same day, an initial attempt to tow the vessel failed. After 2 days of adverse weather conditions, the vessel was finally able to be towed away on 1st February. It arrived in Bilbao on 3rd February in the afternoon. Following an in-depth inspection of the vessel, the salvage company is to put forward an action plan.

### In short

#### Dates for the diary

**Brest 2016: maritime event** from 13th to 19th July 2016.

10th edition of the **Sea Tech Week**, an international event devoted to marine science and technology, from 10th to 14th October 2016, Quartz Congress Centre, Brest.

### 21st Cedre Information Day

#### "The involvement of volunteers in oil spill response"

**20th April 2016** in Paris La Défense.

**Sign up now!**

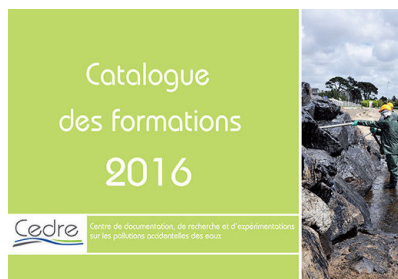
[Provisional programme](#) and [Registration form](#).

For this Information Day, we shall be bringing together a wide-ranging panel of both French and international partners who are set to share their experience, stories and difficulties and to open the debate with a paradox: aid from willing men and women set against an efficient management capacity.

### Cedre 2016 Training Catalogue

Out now: [the 2016 Training Catalogue](#).

**New addition: "Response to pollution in industrial plants and in rivers"**



## Updating of the STTE contingency plan, Papeete, French Polynesia

The STTE (*Société Total Tahitienne d'Entreposage* owned by Total Polynesia) storage facility in Fare Ute, with a storage capacity of around 20,000 m<sup>3</sup> of diesel, fuel oil, jet A1 and waste oil, contracted Cedre to revise its Oil Spill Contingency Plan (which dates back to 2003). An engineer from the Studies and Training Department visited Papeete from 9th to 18th January to collect the data required to draft this document, meet the key response players (authorities, oil operators, contractors), draw up an inventory of resources (local, regional, national and international) able to be mobilised and initiate the drafting of the contingency plan. At the end of this project, a revised OSCP will be delivered to STTE, covering organisational, operational and technical aspects. This should enable decision-makers and operators in the field to manage the actions to be implemented in the event of an oil spill from the STTE facilities into the water body, which comes under the responsibility of the port authority within the port of Papeete.

## European project POSOW II reaches halfway mark

The project POSOW II (Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline cleanup and Oiled Wildlife interventions) (see Newsletter n°238), funded by the European Union civil protection mechanism (DG ECHO) and coordinated by Cedre, has hit the halfway point. The training materials (manuals, posters and slide shows) developed as part of POSOW I (2012-2013) on the themes of volunteer management, oiled shoreline assessment, oiled shoreline clean-up and oiled wildlife response, have been translated into Arabic by AASTMT (the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, Egypt) and into Turkish by DG-MARINWA (General Directorate of Maritime and Inland Waters, Turkey). They can be downloaded free of charge from the [project website](#), where you can also watch the [new project introduction video](#) produced by ISPRA (*Instituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale*, Italy). The manuals on the 2 new themes addressed as part of the POSOW II project – one on fishermen's support for oil spill response produced by FEPORTS (*Instituto Portuario de Estudios y Cooperacion de la Comunidad Valenciana*, Spain) and the other on waste management produced by Cedre – are currently being formatted using DTP software and should be available in English on the project website by the end of March. The train the trainer courses for 42 participants from civil protection departments, local authorities and NGOs from 7 South Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey) will be held at Cedre from 19th to 22nd April, then from 26th to 29th April 2016. REMPEC (the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea, Malta) is in charge of sending out the invitations for these courses. To download free of charge the many training materials produced in several languages as part of POSOW I and II, as well as to obtain additional information on the project, please visit [www.posow.org](http://www.posow.org).

## Response product approval

Upon request by Solpan and Wild Berry Enterprises Ltd., Cedre's laboratory tested two bulk sorbents: Naturesorb, a floating, hydrophobic sorbent and Oil Spill Fix, a universal sorbent. Given their performance, they have been added to the [lists of response products published by Cedre](#), available at [www.cedre.fr](http://www.cedre.fr).

## EU Operational Guidelines: Places of Refuge, 2015

The [final version](#) of these guidelines draws upon lessons learned from the *MSC Flaminia* incident (Cedre Newsletters n°204 and 205) and aims to improve coordination and exchanges between competent authorities and private stakeholders. It also clarifies the implications of the [2009 directive](#) relating to the vessel traffic monitoring and information system when more than one member State is involved, or if the incident occurs outside of the jurisdiction of a member State. We note that a place of refuge request cannot be refused for purely commercial, financial or insurance-related reasons.

## Prestige oil spill: acquittals overturned

The verdict announced at the *Prestige* trial on 13th November 2013 in La Coruña was overturned on 26th January at the Spanish Supreme Court, as called for by the prosecutors (Newsletter n°241). The Spanish Supreme Court reversed the acquittals and sentenced the captain to two years' imprisonment for "environmental damage due to recklessness". The court recognised the "direct civil liability" of the Spanish shipowner Mare Shipping Inc. and the London P&I Club, considering that these two parties were aware of the condition of the vessel and therefore of the related risks. The convicted parties will be required to pay a fine, of an as yet unspecified amount. Thus far, as no party had been found liable, no compensation was able to be awarded. The victims will now be turning to the [IOPC Funds](#). In addition to requesting the reversal of the acquittals, the prosecutors, representing all the Spanish, Portuguese and French plaintiffs, had called for 4.3 billion euros for the environmental damage caused to the 1,700 km of oiled coastline.