

CEDRE, France's national centre of expertise on accidental water pollution, supports public authorities and private sector organisations in incident management, both in France and internationally. It has developed unique know-how in preparedness, management and response to oil and chemical spills as well as aquatic litter, in both marine and inland waters.



Practical training at CEDRE's facilities – photo source: CEDRE

Created in 1978 in the wake of the *Amoco Cadiz* oil spill, CEDRE forms part of the measures taken by the French State to strengthen oil spill preparedness and response capabilities. CEDRE is responsible, at national level, for research, experimentation and documentation on pollutants – oil, chemicals and aquatic litter – and their effects, as well as response methods and equipment.

24/7 operational assistance

CEDRE has a duty team available 24/7 to assist personnel in charge of responding to any spill or pollution threat involving oil, chemicals or other substances, in inland or marine waters.

At the request of public bodies and private companies, both in France and internationally, CEDRE provides advice and technical and scientific assistance on the response strategies and equipment to be deployed.

Experts can be dispatched to the incident management centre or directly to the field within hours of the call-out, anywhere in the world.

Unique cutting-edge facilities

At its 3-hectare site in Brest (Finistère), CEDRE boasts one-of-a-kind facilities and tools specially designed for spill response experimentation, analysis and training purposes.

The premises comprise test tanks, an artificial beach, a laboratory and an experimentation hall equipped with tools designed by CEDRE's engineers in order to simulate different types of pollution and test response methods.



Aerial view of CEDRE's premises – Photo source: Focale Fixe

Strengthening spill response preparedness

Training is an essential component in strengthening emergency management capabilities and is one of CEDRE's key missions. Every year, nearly 1,200 professionals – from administrations, local authorities and the private sector – attend the training courses run by CEDRE for decision-makers, incident management teams and responders.

CEDRE is accredited to run training courses that comply with national and international standards, ensuring a high level of expertise.



International reach and recognition

CEDRE is a member of numerous international organisations and actively contributes to the work of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), REMPEC (Mediterranean), REMPEITC-Caribe and IPIECA.

CEDRE's involvement in these groups is not only the opportunity to strengthen and share its expertise, but also to expand its knowledge of the different spill response systems in place around the world.

Alphonse Arzel resource centre

CEDRE's resource centre collects, processes and disseminates information on accidental water pollution in France and worldwide. It has more than 11,000 references – books, studies, reports by its engineers and PhD theses – on oil, chemicals, aquatic litter and new shipping fuels. The resource centre is open by appointment, and our documentary catalogue can also be accessed online via [our portal](#).

The resource centre is named after Alphonse Arzel, mayor of the municipality where the *Amoco Cadiz* oil tanker ran aground in 1978.

New fuels and reducing emissions from maritime transport

Against the backdrop of the energy transition and the target of zero greenhouse gas emissions from shipping by 2050, CEDRE is monitoring the emergence of new shipping fuels (biofuels, methanol, ammonia, etc.) and conducts studies into their behaviour in the event of a spill, to foresee the risks and adapt response strategies.

About CEDRE

Created in 1978 in response to the Amoco Cadiz oil spill, CEDRE is the national centre of expertise on accidental water pollution. Cedre has developed unique know-how in the management of oil and chemical spills, as well as aquatic litter, in both marine and inland waters. Its multidisciplinary team – comprising technicians, engineers and scientists – works together with public and private organisations, both in France and worldwide, in the fields of incident management, operational support, contingency planning, training, research and the provision of documentary resources. The centre boasts one-of-a-kind facilities and equipment, specially designed to conduct tests, research and training in environmentally safe conditions.

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