

Book Reviews

Hazardous Chemicals — Spills and Waterborne Transportation, S.S. Weidenbaum (ed.), American Institute of Chemical Engineers New York, New York, 1980, 147 pp. Price: Members \$8.50, Non-members \$20.

The book contains 22 papers presented at the August 1979 AIChE Meeting in Boston, Mass. The papers are divided into three sections: (1) Hazardous Chemical Spills (a general approach dealing with the U.S. Coast Guard's role), U.S. EPA's response team, information systems, personnel protection equipment, etc., (2) Waterborne Transportation of Hazardous Chemicals (including LNG vessel construction, vapour control (recovery, regulations)) and (3) synthetic and wire ropes for ocean systems.

G.F. BENNETT

Emergency Response Guide for Dangerous Goods, Published by Copp Clark Pitman, Toronto, Ontario, in cooperation with Transport Canada (Transport of Dangerous Goods Branch) and the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Supply and Services, Canada, 1979, (Can.) \$5.00, 352 pages.

The book is a handy guide to the dangers posed by hazardous materials and the response actions to be taken to combat problems involving them. Included in the book are (a) a listing of placards related to the transport of dangerous goods, (b) outline of the HAZCHEM action code system, (c) listing of chemicals both in French and English by alphabet and international number.

This book does not give specific information for each chemical, as does the CHRIS manual for example; the technique used by the Canadians is to refer one to a general response guide for chemicals possessing the same danger properties — i.e. corrosives, poisons, oxidizers, etc.

Under specific chemical listings, one is given only three items of information: (1) the HAZCHEM action code, (2) the international number for the chemical and (3) a secondary reference to a general listing, e.g. chlorine refers to page 3027, where one is advised on how to deal with "Compressed gas, Oxidizer, Poison".

Information given in the hazard page section for each class of chemicals includes data on: (1) potential hazards: (a) fire or explosion and (b) health. Emergency action information includes: (1) general actions, (2) fire response, (3) spill or leak response, (4) first aid. Finally, there is another short section on general precautionary measures.