

compilation of which I will admit causes the editor a great deal of work to assemble, but I think it is worth it.

GARY F. BENNETT

*Industrial Hazard and Safety Handbook*, by Ralph W. King and John Magid, Butterworths Publishers Inc., Mass., (1979), 751 pages, \$ 74.05.

The authors have written in the preface "This book is an attempt to identify and ward off the main hazards found in industry and to provide appropriate references for further study. Here within a single volume, it is possible to find quickly the information needed on any hazard without having to think through numerous publications." In this context, I believe they have succeeded as the book is a virtual compendium of the rules and procedures of industrial safety analysis.

Among the prime readers targeted by the authors are safety specialists and it is they who work with hazards (their discovery and elimination on a day-to-day basis) who will find this book most useful — to have at hand or on a nearby shelf to consult when problems arise or as the authors have suggested to browse through until the reader is familiar with the books' contents. That would certainly be the best way to use the book, because it is not easy reading: the material is technical and extensive and, of course, all chapters are not of equal interest to all readers.

The book has six major chapters of almost equal length: (1) people, profits and safety, (2) design construction inspection and maintenance, (3) the working environment, (4) fire, explosion and implosion hazards, (5) common industrial hazards and (6) special industrial hazards. There are also three short appendixes: (1) hazard warning and identification signs, (2) first aid and (3) some accident statistics.

As an example of the wide variety of the topics covered by the authors and the thoroughness, it would be worthwhile to look at the subsections of chapter 1: (1) introduction, (2) definition, (3) cost of accidents (both in the UK and US), (4) safety, responsibility and organizations, (5) accident reports, records and analyses, (6) workers or machines, (7) human factors, selection and training, (8) safety inspection and audits, (10) insurance and compensation, (11) legal aspects and inquiries, (12) secrecy and (13) planning for major emergencies.

Included in the text are a variety of charts, tables, examples, diagrams, examples of form and photographs — i.e. King and Magid utilize a variety of techniques to transfer information to the reader.

Since like the senior author, the reviewer is a chemical engineer, I turned to that chapter on fire, explosives, etc., my attention having been caught by pictures of the 1974 disaster at Flixborough (the dust jacket having noted that King is probably best known for providing a rational and accepted explanation for the Flixborough disaster.) It is unfortunate that this is one of

the shortest (79 pages) chapters in the book. What is there is good, the material being divided into three subsections: (1) implosion and similar hazards, (2) explosion hazards, (3) fire hazards. Coupled with section 6.2 on chemical hazards (15 pages), King does a reasonably good job of overviewing the problems of the chemical industry in this field. But much more could have been written in this area. And, being aware of author's background and the quality of both, one could hope he would author a complete text on safety in the chemical industry.

In conclusion, I did browse through the book as suggested, shopping around to find sections of interests. I found many — all interesting and informative. And, although the book does not concentrate on the chemical industry, there is so much material applicable to it that I feel the book is a must for any safety engineer specializing in the chemical field.

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*Contact Guide to Specialists in Toxic Substances.* World Environment Center, New York, 1980, 174 pages.

This is a handbook for science journalists, environmental writers and regular beat reporters who need to know as much as possible, as quickly as possible, about poisonous substances and their effects. It is not a book of factual material, but rather is a guide to expertise — i.e. the names of specialists in fields related to toxic substances.

There are two main sections to the book:

- (1) By topic — with the specialists in each area named.
- (2) By specialty (alphabetical order) giving the expert's title, affiliation, address, telephone number and professional profile.

One of the areas, for which experts are provided, deals with the transportation of hazardous substances and spills thereof. In this area some truly knowledgeable people are listed — however most of those listed are neither known to this writer nor to the media person, who not knowing the depth of his resource expert's experience in "spills" will not be certain of his expert's knowledge or ability — and hence the book's major drawback.

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*Hazardous Materials — 1980 Emergency Response Book*, DOT-58002 (1980), Materials Transportation Bureau, Research and Special Programs Administration, US Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20560, 140 pages (Free).

This handy manual (with a brilliant orange cover) is a thorough revision of DOT's earlier (1978) response guide (in livid red) and is a "must" for anyone