

first item consulted when pursuing a line of enquiry in this field. As a research tool it is unique and fills a major deficiency in the hazardous materials literature. It also provides a satisfactory, if somewhat overwhelming, introduction to the subject. Indeed, the size of the book and its impressive list of over 50 contributors are the result of the first ever attempt to treat the many aspects of hazardous materials in one volume, and these statistics are surely indicative of the magnitude and inter-disciplinary nature of the subject.

J.E. HOOKHAM and R.F. GRIFFITHS

*Acceptable Risk*, by B. Fischhoff, S. Lichtenstein, P. Slovic, S. Derby and R. Keeney, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1981, ISBN 0-521-24164-2, 185 pages incl. index, £15.00 .

The authors of this highly readable book are well known for their work in the social aspects of risk and risk management. Their approach reflects the multidisciplinary (primarily social science) expertise of the group; it is a worthy successor to earlier explorations in this area of risk, which is concerned with management and social factors, and with how the technological aspects interact with these facets.

The authors examine first the knotty problem of why acceptable risk questions are so hard to resolve, and give examples of approaches that have been adopted. There is much here that will give food for thought for the technologist concerned with risks of all kinds. The treatment is intelligent, provoking and very readable to the non-social scientist (such as the present reviewer). A commendable feature of the book is the inclusion of substantial concluding chapters with recommendations for research and for current practice in risk management. All in all, a worthwhile book and good value at the price.

R.F. GRIFFITHS

*High Risk Safety Technology*, by A.E. Green (Ed.), Wiley, Chichester, 1982, ISBN 0-471-10153-2, 654 pages incl. index, £25.00.

This book consists of a compilation of contributions from 44 authors, the material being organised in four parts. The Library of Congress and the British Library publication data list the subject matter as Industrial Safety — Addresses, Essays, Lectures. This is a fair description that reflects its nature better than the statement on the jacket that “The material has been struc-