

This is an excellent book — first the overall principles of the area, next specific applications, and finally research needs are given. It is well written and uniformly authored (which is not always the case for multi-authored books). It will be a valuable addition to the libraries of both researchers and disposers.

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Introduction to Safety in the Chemical Laboratory, by N.T. Freeman and J. Whitehead, Academic Press, London, 1982, 244 pages, £16.00 (\$29.00).

The large number of laboratories (in both the educational and industrial sector), their increasing complexity of equipment, and heightened worker concern over exposure to chemicals (especially carcinogens) has increased management's concern for worker safety. Many of the concerns are addressed in this basic book by Freeman and Whitehead.

In Chapter 1, the authors discuss the general aspects of laboratory design and layout, including storage (especially of flammable, corrosive and incompatible materials), basics of ventilation and the fundamentals of safety equipment. The second chapter is concerned with worker's conduct, cleanliness, eating and drinking in the laboratory (and smoking, which the author admits is a contentious matter), working alone, and rubbish disposal. In the US, this latter section would have been greatly expanded to a discussion of the laws regarding hazardous waste; this is one section that could well be expanded, both from a legal and a methodological point of view.

Other chapters deal with hazards of laboratory equipment, laboratory technique (including handling toxic and reactive chemicals — followed by an especially good reference reading list), classifications of commonly used chemicals and their hazards (which I feel is perhaps the best and most important chapter in the book dealing with TLVs, Dose Rate, absorption, monitoring, LEL, etc.), electromagnetic radiation hazards, compressed gases, protective clothing and devices, fire protection and prevention, safety procedures, office safety and first aid.

The book is pleasantly produced: pleasing, easy-to-read type and an appropriate number of excellent photographs, a good list of references at the end of each chapter and a comprehensive index. It is indeed a useful, generally comprehensive and readable text on laboratory safety. It could well be made required reading for all new, and maybe even more importantly, current laboratory workers.

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