

3. A comparative study of soot and carbon black -- D Rivin and A I Medalia, Cabot Corp., Billerica, MA
4. Polycyclicaromatic hydrocarbons and soot from practical combustion systems - J.P Longwell, MIT, Cambridge, MA

GARY F BENNETT

Handbook of Industrial Solvents, 5th edn , Alliance American Insurers, Schaumburg, IL, 1983, 126 pages, \$3 92.

Handbook of Hazardous Materials, 2nd edn , Alliance American Insurers, Schaumburg, IL, 1983, 232 pages, \$9 40

These two handbooks were developed by the Industrial Hygiene Subcommittee of the Alliance of American Insurers and are full of extremely useful physical, chemical and health information on a wide variety of hazardous chemicals

The earlier of these two books is extremely topical (at this point in time) in the United States, as the Congress and the U S Environmental Protection Agency seriously consider the wisdom of allowing solvents to be disposed of in landfills

There are four chapters in this first book, the last of which I consider to be the most important because it contains a great deal of information on solvent properties, synonyms, boiling and flash points, NFPA hazard numbers, flammable and explosive limits, evaporation rate, specific gravity and threshold limit values (8 h and 15 min), all of the data are tabulated for easy access. Additionally, on the page facing the tabulated physical and chemical data of solvents, the authors have given health (toxicity) information, i e , "n-Pentane irritation at twice threshold limit with narcosis at higher concentration. Odor detectable at threshold limit. The threshold unit is based on limited human sensory response and at a level that prevents irritation and narcosis."

The three (short) chapters preceding the data include (1) solvents and their characteristics, (2) estimation of solvent exposure, and (3) control of solvent exposure

The second book is patterned after the first, and why not. If you're successful, don't change. However, it deals with a broader class of approximately 500 hazardous materials, from acetylene to welding fumes, with the same format used above - facing pages of physical data and reports on human toxic effects

The introductory paragraphs in this book are a little different, however (1) properties of hazardous materials, (2) toxicology and threshold limit values, (3) potential hazard recognition, (4) evaluation of exposure, and (5) control of exposure

Not only are these extremely useful books, they are available at a very moderate price. No hazardous material library should be without them.

GARY F BENNETT

Industrial Solid Wastes, by N L. Nemerow, Ballinger Publishing Company, Cambridge, MA, 1984, 384 pages, \$45 00

When I picked up this book, it was with great expectations that I would be diving into a solid volume on industrial wastes in general and hazardous wastes in particular. Unfortunately, I was greatly disappointed. The book should more appropriately be labelled "Solid Wastes", for it is not until the 15th chapter, the author really gets into the industrial waste area, although he does discuss the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and what makes waste hazardous before that. However, I found both of the prior discussions sterile and lacking in substance, they cover the law as passed, but contain very little of its recent applications by the US Environmental Protection Agency. At the very least the status and regulations applying to generators, transporters, treaters and disposers should have been discussed.

One aspect I even found disconcerting in the earlier chapters on solid waste was a tendency of the author to cite local newspapers as informational sources, personally, I prefer the scientific literature as being more authoritative and accessible.

I did find the latter half of the book more useful. Nemerow utilized a technique he has used in other texts, i.e., a discussion of the problem of hazardous waste, industry by industry. And in that context, he does discuss a secure landfill as a means of disposing of hazardous wastes — but detoxification and incineration as they pertain directly to hazardous wastes are not discussed, they should have been, as they are important topics, each deserving a chapter by itself.

To a large extent, the book deals with solid residential and commercial waste. And in that context, there is much good material. Additionally, as I stated, the information reported industry-by-industry is also excellent. But, it is in the area of hazardous wastes, the book falls down — what there is good, unfortunately, there is just not enough.

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