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Book Reviews

Emergency Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents, by D.R. DePol and P.N. Cheremisinoff, Technomic Publishing, Inc., Lancaster, PA, 1984, 121 pages.

If a fire or police department is ready to establish a hazardous materials response unit, this book is a good place to start. It is easy to read, fairly well written and generally contains, without a lot of detail, the initial information one would want to have at the beginning of a hazardous materials response unit activity.

Information is given on laws and regulations (including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's list of hazardous substances and reportable quantities), contingency planning, information systems, identification and evaluation, evacuation, emergency response procedures and emergency response equipment.

My major criticism is about my major plaudit—brevity. There's a lot more that the author could (and probably should) have included, but what's here is relevant and, as I said, provides a good start. To that end, the book should serve a useful purpose.

GARY F. BENNETT

Combustion of Hazardous Wastes: Sampling and Analysis Methods, by Judith C. Harris, Deborah J. Larsen, Carl F. Rechsteiner and Kathleen E. Thrun, Noyes Publications, Park Ridge, NJ, 1985, 419 pages, $42.

The 1984 amendments to the U.S. Resource Recovery and Conservation Act (RCRA) make it clear that the U.S. Congress intends that land disposal be the method of last resort for the disposal of hazardous materials. Avoidance followed by recovery of waste are preferred over disposal, and before land disposal comes destruction (incineration) or detoxification as preferred methods.

The current U.S. regulations call for 99.99% (referred to as 4-nines) destruction of the principal organic hazardous constituents (POHCs); this destruction level (called DRE: destruction and removal efficiency) is defined in terms of waste inputs and stack outputs of the major organic material (contaminants).

The book addresses the sampling and analysis methods to be used when measuring the levels of POHCs in the various streams of an incineration facility (inlet waste, stack gas, process water, fly ash and bottom ash), for the purpose of calculating the DRE values for the incinerator. Included in the book are summaries stating recommended method types of sampling and specific analyses to which a method applies, a brief description of the method, and instrumentation and operating conditions.

GARY F. BENNETT