

NFPA hazard diamond (in this case 3 (health), 0 (fire), and 0 (reactivity)) is displayed without any explanation of this symbol. In fact, the NFPA 704-M rates nitric acid as 2-0-1 (a lower rating in health and reactivity than this reviewer feels appropriate). Perhaps an organic solvent, such as benzene, would be more illustrative as a sample label.

(3) Include a sample typical MSDS for a typical chemical, such as benzene, and explain the various terms in more details. To rate all hazards except toxicity as "physical hazards" is a serious oversimplification, in our view. No mention is made of fire, flammability, explosibility, flammable limits, or autoignition temperatures — all important factors in hazard control. Such groups as the National Fire Protection Association, the Underwriters Laboratories, the U.S. Bureau of Mines, the Factory Mutuals and Industrial Risk Insurers should be listed with addresses.

Since a federal court in May 1985 questioned certain aspects of the OSHA standard, especially the confidential information section and the coverage (SIC 20-39), the final chapter has yet to be written on Right-to-Know, but its importance is apparently assured. The reader is urged to check with both OSHA and local authorities for further details.

H.H. FAWCETT

Compendium of Safety Data Sheets for Research and Industrial Chemicals, in 3 volumes, by L.H. Keith and D.B. Waiters (Eds.), VCH Publishers, Deerfield Beach, Fl 33442-1705 and P.O. Box 1260/1280, D-6940 Weinheim, Federal Republic of Germany, 1985, 1862 pages, \$270.00 (for the set).

The Hazard Communication regulation of OSHA (Federal Register, November 25, 1983, 29 CFR 1910.1200) requires, among other duties, that U.S. firms in SIC code classes 20-39 prepare and then disseminate to employees material safety data sheets (MSDSs) containing essential information on potential hazards of chemical materials encountered or handled in the workplace. Many substances, of the approximately 50,000 or more in commerce, are not widely used, but still may present significant hazards to researchers and emergency control personnel. This work presents much basic information on 867 relatively uncommon chemicals, most selected from the National Toxicology Program for testing for mutagenic effects and/or incomplete data. The objective of the editors is to present a data base as complete as possible on the physical properties, acute and chronic toxicity, fire aspects, reactivity, and medical monitoring and control aspects for many of these "hard-to-locate" substances. DOT regulations for shipments, and selection of proper impervious material for protection, such as in gloves, are included for each material. One or more references are indicated for the source of the data.

This reviewer suggests that the medical and first-aid section be reviewed by a medical professional to insure that it is appropriate to the specific compound in question. It is also suggested that in future editions, a section be added on sources of information, such as the NFPA, the ILO-CIS, the ACS, the AIChE and other professional groups, to supplement the 50 references used in preparation of the first edition.

This work will doubtlessly be of considerable value to researchers, pilot plant personnel, formulators, importers, and distributors of the 867 chemicals.

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Recovering from Catastrophies: Federal Disaster Relief Policy and Politics, by Peter J. May, Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881, and London, U.K., June 1985, 186 pages, \$35.00.

Natural disasters, along with those to which humans contribute, such as arson in fires, are major financial drains on those affected either directly or indirectly. In the U.S. alone, flood loss annually amounts to about \$3 billion, most not covered by the flood insurance. Thirty percent of U.S. population are exposed to hurricane risks, 20 percent to severe tornado risks, 19 percent to serious earthquake risks, and 12 percent to flood risks.

Over the years, and without a continuous thread, the federal disaster relief program has evolved. This book examines the evolution of this policy, and provides a basis for future discussions and evolutions. The author, who is an assistant professor of political science and public affairs at the University of Washington, Seattle, describes policy making in two political scenes, namely, the emotional atmosphere immediately following a major disaster, and during the relative calm between disasters. Local, state, and federal government conflicts and interfaces are described using the Mt. St. Helens volcano eruption as an example of the various political forces at work. The author notes that politicians derive benefits from disaster relief, as they attempt to influence federal policy and funding. The economic considerations are considered, and future directions for federal disaster relief policy suggested. Three distinct policy approaches and their tradeoffs provide an overview of the options for future policy-making.

Students of political science, policy analysis, and policy formation, including public officials and political scientists at local, state, and federal levels, will find the book enlightening. Although hazardous materials are not specifically treated, the role of such materials in disasters is clearly suggested.

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