

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.

H.H. FAWCETT

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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