

The Firefighter's Handbook of Hazardous Materials, 4th edn., C.J. Baker, Maltese Enterprises, P.O. Box 34048, Indianapolis, IN, 1984, 331 pages, \$19.95.

This handbook, compiled by a fire fighter, was written in compact, portable form, designed to be carried in a first responder's coat pocket or on the fire apparatus.

The book is divided into three sections:

Section 1: Listed in alphabetical order are over 5600 chemicals, many of which are common or brand names; synonyms are also listed.

Data included for each chemical are:

- (a) toxicity by inhalation and skin contact
- (b) vapor density
- (c) specific gravity
- (d) water solubility
- (e) U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) classification
- (f) ignition temperature
- (g) atmospheric disaster potential
- (h) fire disaster potential
- (i) fire fighting directions
- (j) additional advice

Section 2: General emergency (potential hazards) and fire fighting procedures for various general classification of materials. Data are given on potential hazards (fire, explosions, health effects and necessity for evacuation) and immediate action information (general, fire, spills or leaks, and first aid).

Section 3: Listing of chemicals by U.S. DOT number.

My personal assessment is that this book will prove to be a firefighter's best first response guide. It is easy to use and chock-full of data. It should be a part of every fire department's basic information package.

G.F. BENNETT

Post-Accident Procedures for Chemicals and Propellants, by D.K. Shaver and R.L. Berkowitz, Noyes Publications, Park Ridge, NJ, 1984, 236 pages, \$32.

Utilizing government reports, Noyes publications has put a series of very good and extremely useful books into the public arena — and made them much more accessible than they ordinarily would be through the U.S. Government's NTIS (National Technical Information Service). Unfortunately, this book is not one of the better ones.

The book was originally titled *Guidelines Manual — Post Accident Procedures for Chemicals and Propellants*. It was prepared by the authors, mem-

bers of the Systems Consulting Laboratory Inc., for the U.S. Air Force, Rocket Propulsion Laboratory and the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration.

The book is divided into five sections:

- General Guidelines (for training, planning, communication, decision-making, technical assistance, protective clothing and cleanup).
- Initial Response and Hazardous Chemical Data
- Hazard Assessment Guidelines
- Hazard Mitigation Guidelines
- Cargo Transfer, Wreckage Removal and Cleanup/Disposal Guidelines

Appendices provide information on physical and chemical properties, on-line information retrieval systems, information sources, location of U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Offices and Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites.

There were several things about the book that left me unimpressed:

- The manuscript has been reduced in size and photo-reproduced, making it very hard to read.
- In about 100 pages of text, the authors try to give response information elsewhere contained in books four times that size.
- Does one need to republish USEPA and USCG office locational addresses?
- The locations of disposal sites are not complete; at least two in Ohio that I know of are not included.
- The references are woefully inadequate — for example, the authors cite the Proceedings of the 1972 Conference on Control of Hazardous Material Spills but no mention is made of the successive conferences held every two years since then. Moreover, numerous other very good hazardous spills books were left off the list.
- Approximately 50 pages were devoted to reproducing pages from the DOT response guide. Would it not have been better to cite the guide which is widely available and updated routinely?

Given the foregoing critique, its understandable why I cannot recommend the book. It is one I personally would not purchase.

GARY F. BENNETT

Evaluation of Remedial Action Unit Operations at Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites, by J. Ehrenfeld and J. Bass, Noyes Publications, Park Ridge, NJ, 1984, 433 pages, \$39.

This report was originally prepared for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by the authors who are members of A.D. Little, Inc. The authors have described more than 50 remedial action unit operations. Information given on each includes: description, status, factors for determining feasibility and reliability, principal data requirements and basic information for cost reviews.