

cancer; microorganisms (57 pages), a well documented source of indoor pollution problems; passive cigarette smoke (68 pages) in homes and other areas which are inadequately ventilated; other combustion products (71 pages) such as those originating in conventional heaters (coal- and wood-fired stoves, fireplaces, gas stoves and space heaters); and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including nearly ubiquitous formaldehyde, are discussed in 93 pages. References are excellent, and the index adequate to the subject. Overall, this volume should be of great value to anyone who is truly concerned with the scientific aspects of this vital subject.

H.H. FAWCETT

Fire and Smoke: Understanding the Hazards, by the Committee on Fire Toxicology, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC, 1986, 156 pages, paperback, \$16.00.

Fire is probably the oldest known chemical reaction, but the uncertain and incomplete understanding of this primal force is only vaguely appreciated. Especially this is true when one tries to relate materials to fire losses, deaths, and escape times, such as tragically was demonstrated in the recent South African mine fire with loss of 177 lives.

To review and update the knowledge and experiences of the fire sciences and engineers, the Committee on Fire Technology, National Research Council, has produced a most valuable volume. Starting with risk and hazard assessment, a review of fire deaths and the inadequate data base on real causes and effects, the study presents a primer on fire and fire hazards (which is in itself a classic). Status of fire hazard models and test methods, hazards associated with fires (heat, smoke, chemistry and physics of smoke), and laboratory evaluation of the evaluation of smoke potency, are followed by two "real-world" fire scenarios. The volume contains 233 references.

This is a most important and valuable addition to the library of any scientifically-oriented person concerned with control of and human interface considering our primal force, fire.

H.H. FAWCETT

Safety of Reactive Chemicals, by T. Yoshida, Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1987, ISBN 0-444-42748-1, xvi + 404 pages, Dfl. 230.00, \$102.25.

This volume inaugurates a new Elsevier series on Industrial Safety and is