

GARY F. BENNETT

Decontamination Techniques for Buildings, Structures and Equipment, by M.P. Espisito, J.L. McCardle, A.H. Crone, J.S. Greber, R. Clark, S. Brown, J.B. Halowell, A. Langham and C.D. Candlish, Noyes Data Corp., Park Ridge, NJ, 1987, ISBN 0-8155-1120-5, 262 pages, \$36.00.

This handbook written by several members of a consulting firm (PEI Associates, Cincinnati, OH) and a research firm (Battelle, Columbus Laboratories, Columbus, OH) describes methods of decontaminating building structures and equipment contaminated by such diverse materials as asbestos, acids, alkalis, dioxins, explosives, heavy metals, cyanides, radioactives, organic solvents, pesticides and PCBs.

The book has two almost equal sections. The first section contains chapters dealing with:

- decontamination strategies
- decontamination methods
- worker health and safety

The second part of the book contains nine case studies which describe actual decontaminations costs of diverse sites as Seveso (dioxin contamination) and the Binghamton, NY office building (contaminated by chemicals produced during PCB fire). Two other parts of this section describe sampling methods and report on superfund sites decontamination experiences.

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Protection of Public Water Supplies from Ground-water Contamination, by W.A. Pettyjohn (Ed.), Noyes Data Corp., Park Ridge, NJ, 1987, ISBN 0-8155-1119-1, 118 pages, \$36.00.

Ground-water is a major source of water for many United States communities, but in many areas of the country, its quality is threatened by industrial discharges, spills to land, leaking underground storage controlled hazardous waste sites. The book, which appears to be the result of an U.S. Environmental Protection Agency seminar, provides an organized approach to the effective management of ground-water.

The book begins with a discussion of basic ground-water hydrology, ground-water classification and relation to surface water. The second half of the book treats ground-water pollution, management, alternatives, removal of VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and in-situ restoration.

I do not claim much expertise in hydrology, but I have read fairly widely on

the topic of VOC removal. The chapter on this topic is good (both aeration and activated carbon are discussed), but is shorter and less comprehensive than I would have liked.

Additionally, the book appears to have been photo-reproduced and the type is terribly small.

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Hazard Communication: Issues and Implementation, J.F. Brower (Ed.), ASTM, Philadelphia, PA, 1987, ISBN 0-8031-0933-4, 238 pages, \$37.00.

Hazard Communications is a review of the U.S. Federal hazardous communications requirements and their implementation. The 19 papers in the book resulted from a symposium held in Houston, Texas in 1985. The seminar was conducted in response to the Occupational Health and Safety Administration's requirement that workers be advised of the hazards of the chemicals that they work with.

The papers (which have been peer reviewed) have been organized into four chapters, each of which contains the record of the panel discussion following the session:

- regulatory and compliance issues
- industry programs
- other jurisdictions and legal issues
- information resources

The papers are very well written and certainly cover the subject, especially the legal challenge to laws that infringe on OSHA's territory, but do indicate that community right-to-know laws that avoid overlapping OSHA's responsibility are probably not challengeable. Another controversial topic discussed was the workers right-to-know as opposed to the employer's desire to retain trade secrets. There is little important information on both topics not covered in the book.

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Guide to Safe Practices in Chemical Laboratories, by the Royal Society of Chemistry, Royal Society of Chemistry, London, 1987, ISBN 0-85186-479-1, 48 pages, £10.00 (approx. \$18.00).

The broad objective of the book is to provide general guidance on safety procedures to be employed in laboratory work. It is not a book of detail of how to perform safely, but rather it is a policy and procedures manual for those