

## Book Reviews

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*Air Pollution Control Technology*, by B. Bretschneider and J. Kurfurst, Elsevier, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 1986, ISBN 0-444-98985-4, 197 pages, \$95.50 (Dfl 170.00).

This book is an excellent introduction to the topic of air pollution control and would be a good text for a beginning course (except that the customary problems and exercise used academically by the professor and student assignment are not present).

The authors begin (logically, I feel) with a discussion of the problems that lead to concern for air quality:

- Atmospheric pollution
- Adverse effect of physical and chemical pollutants in the atmosphere
- Sources of atmospheric pollution

With the problem defined the authors go on to discuss potential solutions. Each air pollution control device is nicely described and diagrammed. Indeed, this is the book's main attribute. Lacking however, is a really good mathematical description of the design basis for each control device. And sorely missing is a discussion of the energy use by each control device. Back to strengths — control of particulates is very well done; and for a weakness, the control of gases is not well covered.

For me, the great benefit of the book was the European perspective. The data supplied by the authors gave me a chance to compare and contrast what is happening in Europe to what's occurring in the United States.

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*Hazardous Waste Handbook for Health and Safety*, by W.F. Martin, J.M. Lippitt and T.G. Prothero, Butterworth Publishers, Boston, MA, 1987, ISBN: 0-409-90070-2, 470 pages, \$14.95.

This book was written as a guidance manual for supervisors responsible for occupational safety and health programs at uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. It was written by experienced hazardous waste site safety professionals who outline the problems of chemical and environmental exposure at site cleanups and then discuss ways to avoid the problems. The chapters and eight appendices provide a wealth of very practical, easily accessible and useful information for anyone involved with chemicals: normal use, spills. Conventional operating hazardous waste sites, as well as normal municipal disposal sites, are among

those people who could profit from the book in addition to those for whom the book was principally written – hazardous waste cleanup personnel.

The 11 chapters are titled:

1. Introduction
2. Hazards
3. Planning and organization
4. Site characterization
5. Air monitoring
6. Personnel protection equipment
7. Site control work practice
8. Decontamination
9. Site emergencies
10. Medical monitoring program
11. Training

The style of writing is quite different from texts one reads. It is written in the sense of admonitions – prepare, consider, monitor – the authors have used the imperative style.

As stated above, I believe the authors have presented an excellent analysis of the state-of-the-art of the technology of safety monitoring. And they present it in a forthwright, easy-to-follow style. Perhaps of equal use as the main part of the book are the inclusion of a sample site safety plan, medical occupational history form and health and safety checks among others. These are excellent, real world examples one could easily adopt to one's own use.

As a rule, I do not like photo-reproduced texts. I much prefer typeset material but as an editor, I am mindful of the costs of typesetting and the very high cost of most books. The publishers, by photoreproducing the manuscript have kept the cost down to an incredibly reasonable \$24.95. Unfortunately, they probably were not supplied editorial assistance by the publisher and the book suffers somewhat from lack of a good English editor as well as a scientific editor who would not refer to Sax handbook as Sach and Noyes Publishers as Noise (I wonder if the book was dictated) and the publisher the Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Site Conference as Government Institute – its publisher – The Hazardous Materials Control Research Institutes (although both are in Washington, DC, suburbs).

The above, however, are minor criticisms compared to the overall usefulness of the text. I strongly recommend it for the audience interested in the author.

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