

Book Reviews

Hazardous Materials Dictionary, edited by R.J. Coleman, and K.H. Williams, Technomic Publishing, Lancaster, PA, 1988, ISBN No. 0-87762-539-5, 184 pp., price SFr. 78.- (ca. US\$ 39.).

This newly published reference book contains over 2600 definitions of words, phrases, abbreviations and acronyms relating to hazardous materials: classification, handling, storage, transportation, disposal, regulation, emergencies and emergency responses.

While not of great use to engineers well versed in environmental matters, it should be a useful reference for those less technically versed: public safety officials, emergency response personnel, civil defense agency employees and those engaging in transportation.

GARY F. BENNETT

Hazardous Chemicals Desk Reference, edited by N.I. Sax and R.J. Lewis, Sr., Van Nostrand, Reinhold, New York, NY, 1987, ISBN: No. 0-442-28208-7, 1084 pages, \$69.95.

Having improved my physical fitness by routinely using Sax's massive manual entitled: *Dangerous Properties of Industrial Materials*, which contains data on 19,000 chemicals and encompasses more than 3000 pages, I was delighted to receive the above book, which is a condensation in number of chemicals (4,700) and length of writeups. Not a great deal of data for each chemical has been lost in the writeup, contained in the condensed book (based on my comparison of the two books of the data given for several different chemicals). For each chemical this new volume has:

- A 1 to 3 hazard rating
- CAS, NIOSH and DOT identification numbers
- Selected physical properties
- Synonyms
- Current standards for exposure limits in air
- Excellent writeup on hazard posed by the chemical

All of the key data appearing in the larger work are included in this condensed volume. Missing are details of toxicities and sources of these data – but these omissions do nothing to hinder the value of this book. Personally, I think the conciseness of the writeups is of more value than the length of the other book (for my purpose in incident response) and the book is easier to use to access needed data. In addition to chemical data, the authors have written two chapters to assist people who are responsible for safety of employees in com-

panies using chemicals. The chapters contain information on the following topics:

- Safe Storage and Handling of Chemicals
- Respirators
- Selection of Protective Clothing
- Fire Protection
- First Aid in the Work Place

All of the chapters are authoritatively well written and remind me of similar material included in the earlier versions of Sax's major book but has been omitted in recent edition.

In summary, this is a useful book that should be the first choice for quick access to chemical data of those handling chemicals and wish to know their hazards and fire properties.

GARY F. BENNETT

Land Disposal, Remedial Action, Incineration and Treatment of Hazardous Waste; Proceedings from the Thirteenth Annual Research Symposium, compiled by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Hazardous Waste Engineering, Research Laboratory, Cincinnati, OH, July 1987, Reprint No. EPA/600/9-87/015, NTIS No. None, ISBN No. None, 526 pages, (no price available).

The U.S. EPA's annual research symposium in which their contractors present the results of the research they have carried out for the U.S. EPA have become recognized as one of the top "state-of-the-art" conferences. This one was no exception and the proceedings contain 52 full papers and 32 poster sessions (abstracts published only). The full papers are fairly concise, averaging a little more than nine pages each; the reprints of the poster sessions presentation were limited to one-page abstracts – but in all cases addresses were given for the authors of each poster presentation so an interested reader could correspond, if he wished, with the authors. The papers were broadly divided into two areas with approximately an equal number of papers in each:

- Hazardous waste land disposal
- Hazardous waste incineration and treatment

As with most conferences, the papers are of variable quality and depth, and span a wide range of topics. What the readers would classify as the best and most interesting papers (and it does with me) depends on one's research area and current interest. In the area of land disposal, I read several papers including one on U.S. EPA's Technical Handbook for Hazardous Waste Managers, one paper on stabilization/solidification and a third paper on remediation of