

Managing Safety in the Chemical Laboratory, by J.P. Dux and R.F. Stalzer, Van Nostrand Reinhold, New York, NY, 1988, ISBN 0-442-21869-9, 154 pp., US \$28.95.

As I have stated before in previous reviews, it is rare that I read a technical book from cover to cover. Often they are too lengthy; more often they are too complex and boring. This book is an exception! It is easy to read, down to earth, interesting and “chock full” of practical useful information. “Managing Safety in the Chemical Laboratory” is an excellent guide to the topic of safety in industrial and academic laboratories.

The authors note that it is people and not systems (or equipment) that are the cause of most accidents. The book focuses on managing people and gives advice on why and how to write a safety manual. I often criticize books I review for needless details. This time I wished for more detail. The author gives an outline for a safety manual. I would not have minded seeing 10 or 20 pages of details on the topic so that (being lazy) I (and other readers) could plagiarize parts from these most knowledgeable people.

Other topics covered include:

- Preparing for emergencies
- Personal protection
- Safety in handling hazardous chemicals
- Managing personnel for safety
- Safety in the academic laboratory
- Managing hazardous wastes

There are three appendices dealing with US government regulations and the regulations on handling, storage and cleaning up spills of hazardous chemicals.

On the dust jacket, the publishers have written that “an improved safety record benefits technicians, supervisors and the organization as a whole by strengthening morale and lowering insurance costs.” This book should help one attain that goal. It has certainly given me a better perspective on safety in my own laboratory.

GARY F. BENNETT

Crisis Management: A Casebook, edited by M.T. Charles and J.C.K. Kim, Charles C. Thomas Publishers, Springfield, IL, 1988, ISBN 0-398-05408-8, 186 pp., US \$39.50 (£17.50).

On the dust jacket, the publisher has summarized the book’s contents nicely:

“By developing a sound foundation in emergency management, professionals will be better prepared to deal with natural and man-made disasters. The purpose of this casebook, consequently, is to meet the growing need for educational materials in this area and to provide crisis management case studies which demonstrate the numerous administrative challenges