

Odor Control Including Hazardous/Toxic Odors, by H.E. Hesketh and F.L. Cross, Technomic Publishing Company Inc., Lancaster, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., 1989, ISBN 87762-608-1, pp. 85, \$29.00.

Odor is a non-criteria pollutant and has received public attention from time to time, depending on the problem perceived in a community. The book prepared by the authors is a useful addition to environmental literature. Some of the material in the book is drawn from personal files maintained by the authors.

The book is divided in four chapters: (1) Odors, (2) Control of Odors, (3) Community Effects, and (4) Odor Problems and Control Applications.

Chapter 1 provides an overview on odor sensation, odor detection, sources and procedures for reducing odor in different industries. Incineration, wet chemical absorption and wet scrubbing, ozonation and adsorption for controlling odors are the subject of Chapter 2. For each control technique, general technical information and special requirements, if any, are given. Design calculations/equations are also described for three techniques.

Chapter 3 details the use of a simple Gaussian dispersion model for computing maximum ground level concentration and point of maximum ground level concentration. The equations (3.2) and (3.3) are not mathematically consistent. Care should be taken in using the results of these two equations. A procedure for quantifying odor impact on a community is described. The problem of identifying a specific odor source, review of odor regulations, and guidelines for odor impact are included in this chapter, which will be very useful for anyone involved in assessment of odor problem in a community. It is difficult to correlate the information on page 60 and Figure 1, and therefore Figure 3.1 should be modified in future editions of the book.

Chapter 4 concentrates on a landfill study, an in-plant air odor control problem, an electrolytic odor control system, two wet scrubbing systems, absorbers, a combination of wet scrubber and absorber, and a Catenary Grid Scrubber. Environmental impact assessment is also discussed in the context of the landfill study.

Each chapter includes a list of useful references, and a Subject Index is provided. The book is easy to read and is recommended as a reference work for scientists involved in solving environmental pollution problems.

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Hazardous Material Emergencies: Response and Control, by J.R. Cashman (Ed.), Technomic Publishing, Company Inc. Lancaster, PA, revised 2nd edn., 1988, ISBN 0-87762-544-1, 390 pp., SFr.88.00 (\$49.00).

As I recall from by review of the previous edition of this book, Cashman is the editor of a hazardous materials newsletter. Clearly, he writes like a jour-

nalist, and the reader will find the book well-written, easy to read and presented in a “newspaper-like” expository fashion. That is the book’s main strength.

If one wants to follow the well-told stories of hazardous material incidents, one should get the book. The author begins with a story of an explosion of naphtha and dynamite in Colorado. He asks rhetorically: “Could it happen again?”, and then the reader is told that the incident occurred in 1888, just over 100 years ago. Even more interesting was Cashman’s description of the devastating explosion of propane at Waverly, Tennessee, in 1978, in which 16 people were killed.

Having nicely obtained the attention of the readers with these dramatic incidents, Cashman describes Response Organization in Chapters 3–6. Listed are descriptions, staffing and equipment used by the following groups.

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|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Public Service Response | -9 teams |
| 2. Industrial Response | -6 teams |
| 3. Strike Teams | -3 teams |
| 4. Commercial Response Organizations | -6 teams |

Chapter 7 is devoted to training. Thirty-six training opportunities available from universities to private groups are described. Chapter 8 is a short review of research and sources of information. Unfortunately, Cashman here mixes organizations (such as the Chemical Manufacturers Association) with chemical informations manuals (CHRIS). In my opinion, the latter topic is so important (i.e. informational manuals) that it should occupy a complete chapter of its own. While I am criticizing, I should note I was not pleased either with the terminal chapter on “Building a Library”. First, the books do not bear a date of publication – an essential piece of information to determine their current value. Nor are they categorized by areas, i.e., chemical information. They are simply listed, and prices are given, a dangerous practice because prices go out-of-date so quickly, but potentially useful, however, as they do give some idea of the relative costs of the books. Other chapters are devoted to:

- Impact of Hazardous Materials on Selected Communities
- Tools of the Hazardous Materials Trade
- Case Histories – too numerous to count – but almost too short to be of value, i.e., two-line descriptions of incidents that appear to have been taken from news releases

In summary, this is an interesting and easy to read book, but is not really a good description of how to respond. However, the book does discuss something of what has happened in response. And it does give one a perspective of the problems in hazardous materials response and what changes or profits can be expected in a response.

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