

causing lung cancer is a long one, and is well documented. Even today, the often unnecessary and very costly removal of asbestos from many places where it needed only to be properly sealed and secured, and the reduction by half of the permissible limit value for asbestos in air clearly shows the subject is still not resolved.

By comparing past histories with ideal avenues of approaches which could have greatly expedited and aided the evolution of relief for workers, engineers are noted as still accepting the first code, 'which made loyalty to the employer the engineer's first professional obligation'. 'Whatever the numerator is in an engineering equation, the denominator is always a dollar mark'.

Scientists and occupational health physicians are believed to be not so limited, and have the possibility for more independent expression of concern about how particular production processes might subject workers to hazards. However, the three major studies suggest that those in the employ of the private sector are not very likely to act publicly to defend the health interests of workers, when such action conflicts with the interests of their employers.

Even when consensus is finally achieved on occupational hazards, the very serious barrier remains 'What is a "safe" exposure limit?' Regulators cannot delay controlling harmful exposures until true scientific consensus exists, which it rarely does.

The references to all six chapters are unusually complete and well presented.

This book is very sobering, and should be read by regulators, industry and association 'health and safety' personnel, and by anyone sincerely concerned with human exposures to suspect or known toxic materials. It is hoped the book will be updated and expanded.

The papers in this book illuminate why neither appeals to professional ethics alone, nor calls for technocratic solutions based on more complete empirical evidence can be an adequate response to the hazards faced by workers and the public. Considering that relatively few of the 7 million known chemicals are well established for human toxicity and exposure limits, much remains to be accomplished if the health of people exposed to dangerous materials is considered paramount by our society.

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*Chemicals, The Press, and the Public: A Journalist's Guide to Reporting on Chemicals in the Community*, by Bud Ward (Ed.), Environmental Health Center, 1050-17th St., Suite 770, Washington, DC, 119 pp, \$ 9.95.

In 1988, the National Safety Council (a 75-year-old public service non-profit organization with an excellent chemical section) established the Environmental Health Center to coordinate efforts for better reporting and understanding

of chemicals and the occasional incidents that occur. This book is their first attempt towards this objective, and is both very practical and sensible.

Beginning with the Right to Know and the Toxic Chemical Releases, as mandated under US PL 99-499 (1986), the book tells how useful these laws can be to a reporter or writer when properly used. The societal distrust of institutional authority gives the reporter serious problems in getting really high quality data which is complete and timely.

The section on actual 'how to' approach a chemical emergency is excellent, and includes a check list for use in developing and writing the story. Especially significant is the section on use of computers in emergency management and reporting, with details as to how to tap the resources of the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, MD by computer modems.

The section 'How toxic is toxic' is an excellent introduction to dispel human concerns about toxic releases and chemicals in general.

It is noted that an Independent Press Advisory Committee has been established, with additional environmental contacts in each of the 50 states and territories.

It is puzzling to this reviewer why no mention is made of professional societies which can provide excellent in-depth sources of information. The Division of Chemical Health and Safety of the American Chemical Society (Washington, DC) and the Center for Chemical Process Safety of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (New York) are examples of groups sincerely interested in environmental as well as human safety and could contribute much to a reporter's data base and background.

It would be helpful in future editions to list the official Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) human carcinogens, the recognized mutagens and teratogens, as well as the lists of chemicals regulated under Title III of PL 99-499 (301 through 313 as updated) for immediate reference. In addition, an index to the whole book is needed. Somewhere it should be noted that over eleven million chemicals are known, and perhaps 50,000 are in commerce in some form.

In general, the book is a long overdue treatment of the subject and is highly recommended, not only to reporters and writers but to industry and environmental groups as well.

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*Short-term Toxicity Tests for Non-genotoxic Effects*, by P. Bourdeau, E. Somers, G.M. Richardson and J.R. Hickman (Eds.), SCOPE 41, IPCS Joint Symposium 8, SGOMSEC 4. Wiley, New York, NY, 1990, ISBN 0-471-92506-3, 354 pp. + 7 pp. index, \$ 69.95.