

- Emergency planning and preparedness

In Part C (the next four chapters), the authors deal with the legal relationship between the various affected parties and the Right-to-Know laws and other federal and state laws and several related matters whose outcome is yet to be decided. The chapters are entitled:

- Trade secrets
- Related laws
- Making the 'Right-to-Know' a reality
- Experiences and consequences

The remainder of the book (actually more than half of it) is devoted to the following appendices:

- Glossary
- Sources of Information
- Legal authorities (texts of standards and law)
- Regulated material (list)
- Pertinent federal forms
- Lethal dose equivalencies
- Generic written hazard communication program

It is rare, as I have said in previous reviews, that I read a book totally from cover to cover; but on occasion because of my personal interest and/or the quality of the book I do. This book is a case in point. As Vice-Chairman of our county emergency planning committee, I am totally involved in the topic covered by the book, and reasonably well versed in the policies, procedures and problems of emergency planning. Consequently I read the material with a critical perspective – but found little if anything to criticize. The book is well written and full of excellent practical information (including a clear recognition of the problems for local planning committees, industry workers and the public). I recommend the book enthusiastically to industry environmental engineers and safety officers involved in hazardous materials planning.

GARY F. BENNETT

*Metal-Bearing Waste Streams: Minimizing, Recycling and Treatment*, by M. Meltzer, M. Callahan, T. Jenson. State of California Department of Health Services and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, published by Noyes Data Corp., Park Ridge, NJ, 1990, ISBN 0-8155-1260-0, 406 pp., \$ 58.00

This book is the combination of two State of California reports:

- Reducing California's Metal Bearing Waste Stream
- Metal Waste Management Alternatives – Minimizing, Recycling, and Treating Metal Wastes

The first report discussed management of metal-bearing wastes, first under

the process topic heading and later under specific industry heading. Chapter subtitles are: (a) process description; (b) waste streams; (c) source reduction; (d) recycling; and (e) treatment.

The second part of the book (really two-thirds) contains the proceedings of a conference held by the State of California. In the preface of that conference the reporter stated.

“Metal wastes are generated in a number of industrial processes including foundry operations, metal surface cleaning and stripping, surface treatment, electro- and electroless plating, and coating operations. Disposal of metal wastes is increasingly subject to federal and state restrictions, making waste management more costly. As a result, there is heightened interest in preventing metal waste generation, in recycling the wastes once they are produced, and in developing treatment alternatives that reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal. The California Department of Health Services, which is the California agency responsible for regulating the disposal of hazardous wastes, has an active program supporting the development of improved waste management practices, including waste minimization. One of the DHS' efforts is to encourage industry in developing strategies for reducing metal waste generation and to make this information available as widely as possible.”

Twenty-five diverse papers were presented at the conference. Their topics were very broad, ranging from ‘Recovery of metals in circuit board and metal plating manufacturing’ to ‘Solids detoxification metals recovery’.

GARY F. BENNETT

*Bretherick's Handbook of Reactive Chemical Hazards*, by L. Bretherick, Butterworths, Stoneham, MA, 1990, 4th edn., ISBN 0-403-04983-9, 2005 pp., \$ 175.00.

In the introduction to this massive tome, the author writes:

“This compilation has been prepared and revised to give access to a wide and up-to-date selection of documented information to research students, practicing chemists, safety officers and others concerned with the safe handling and reuse of reactive chemicals. This will allow the ready assessment of likely potential for reaction hazards which may be associated with an existing or proposed chemical compound or reaction system.”

And in my opinion, the book fulfills all of these goals very well.

This book is, I believe, as claimed in the advertising flyer ‘the world's most comprehensive collection of referenced information on hazardous properties of nearly 5000 reactive compounds and their inter-reactions’. The book is designed to provide data on the reaction between one or more of the reactive chemicals under the wrong conditions or dangerous conditions caused by unstable chemicals.