

*Safety at Work 3rd edn.*, by John Ridley (Ed.) with 25 specialist contributors, Butterworth-Heinemann, 80 Montvale Ave., Stoneham, MA 02180, 1990, ISBN 0-7506-1018-2, 752 pp., \$195.00.

This “real world” discussion by British experts included many previously overlooked aspects of “safety”. As the editor notes, “health and safety situations in the workplace are never clear cut, but are affected by a whole range of influences both from within and without the organisation. This means that the safety adviser and the practising manager must take a much broader perspective when viewing health and safety problems ... to encourage lateral thinking among those with health and safety responsibilities so they look beyond the obvious in seeking solutions to safety problems.”

Noting the first safety welfare act was put on the UK Statute Book in 1802, it is interesting that the Health and Safety at Work etc., Act is dated 1974, and followed almost annually by more specific laws.

The first part of the volume at hand discusses British law and civil liability in detail (139 pages). The concept and management of risk is explored in various aspects with excellent treatments of accident investigation and reporting, records and statistics, the role of behavioural science, organisation for safety, and employer’s obligations (Part II, 176 pages). Part III is more specific, with chapters on occupational diseases, occupational hygiene, radiation, noise and vibration, workplace pollution, heat and ventilation, lighting, ergonomics and human error (154 pages). Part IV, General Science (226 pages) involves studies of strength of materials, testing, fire precautions from basic knowledge to fire control, mechanical hazards, mechanical handling, electricity, and details on the safe use of chemicals. Photos on drawings are of good quality; appendices and an index are well organized.

This is an excellent reference and should be most useful to anyone interested in “real world” safety and accident control.

HOWARD H. FAWCETT

*Radioactive Heaven and Earth – The Health and Environment Effects of Nuclear Weapons Testing In, On and Above the Earth.* A report of the IPPNW International Commission to Investigate the Health and Environmental Effects of Nuclear Weapons Production and the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, authored and edited by A. Robbins, A. Makhijani, and K. Yih, Apex Press, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, 1991, ISBN 1-85649-021-1, 193 pp., \$17.95 (paperback).

Recent media coverage of agreements on the reduction of nuclear weapons, and the cleanup costs of contamination estimated in the \$300 billion range,