

5. Development company seeks to acquire a large farm for residential development

These case studies illustrate the basic principles and concepts outlined in the book and are an excellent ending to it (except for a 10 page glossary and minor appendices).

In summary, I found that the time I spent reading the text well used and recommend it especially to non-experts (environmental non-expert that is), such as real estate agents, bankers and lawyers. On the other hand the legal concepts and “the evaluation of data chapter” (as short as it is) would be useful to the environmental engineer.

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Industrial Emergency Preparedness, by R.B. Kelly, Van Nostrand Reinhold, Routledge/Chapman and Hall, Hampshire, UK, 1991, ISBN 0-442-20483-3, 297 pp., £27.50.

The release of methyl isocyanate with tragic consequences at Bhopal India led to world-wide change in chemical industry practices. Emergency planning has risen to the top of community and industrial concern — and political concern as well. As a result, the United States Congress mandated the writing of local emergency response plans (Title III of SARA) for chemical spills.

This is the first book that I have received that comprehensively reviews the writing and use of industrial emergency response plans. And in my opinion, the author has done a good job — there are not many topics dealing with spill planning that he has not covered, although I thought at times the coverage could have been a little more detailed. If laws are not enough to encourage good planning, one surprising statement given by the author should be: “Studies have shown that companies with effective emergency response organization suffer losses only 6% of those with ineffective organization.”

The author has clearly written with the reader in mind. He purposely divided the book into many short chapters (approximately eight pages each) so that the reader could pick the book up in spare moments and read a chapter totally. By title the 20 chapters in the book are:

1. The need for emergency preparedness
2. Natural hazards
3. Technological hazards
4. Developing emergency plans
5. Plan elements, preliminaries and the basic plan
6. Plan elements: prevention and preparedness
7. Plan elements: response and recovery
8. Evaluating, reviewing and maintaining the plan