Most chlordane water contamination occurs in surface water, from industrial releases, urban or rural runoff, or spraying near or over exposed bodies of water. In lakes or streams, chlordane absorbs almost completely to sediment in about 6 days. Contaminated food is another source of chlordane exposure; eating fish from chlordane-contaminated waters may add to a person's body burden. Infants may be at increased risk if the mother has had significant chlordane exposure. It is absorbed well by all exposure routes. Results of various epidemiologic studies in humans are conflicting and inconclusive. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) considers the evidence as limited in animals and inadequate in humans. Various blood dyscrasias have been studied but evidence is anecdotal and inconclusive.

Acute exposure — there is no antidote for chlordane poisoning. For chronic exposures, assessing the environment and preventing further exposures are essential. The National Pesticide Telecommunications network (24-h hotline 1-800-858-7378) can help locate companies that measure chlordane levels in indoor air and soil. No treatment specific for chlordane poisoning exists. Standards and regulations for chlordane in the US, as well as suggested readings, are included. For clinical inquiries, contact Office of the Director, ATSDR Division of Health Education, on 1-404-639-6204.

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Transportation of Dangerous Goods: Assessing the Risks, by F.F. Saccomanno and K. Cassidy, Institute for Risk Research, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, 1992, 631 pp

This is a compilation of 31 papers presented at the First International Consensus Conference on the Risks of Transporting Dangerous Goods, held in Toronto, Canada, April 6–8, 1992. The papers are collected in five chapters dealing with quantitative risk assessment models, release assessment, simple risk assessment methodology, uncertainty in risk estimation, and risk tolerance, communications and policy implications.

Some excellent papers and data tabulations are assembled, including papers on risk assessment for ship accidents in harbors, and for rail and road transport. Summaries are included of accident rates and probabilities of release following an accident for road and rail accidents for several countries in Europe and North America. Material loading/unloading and accidents at fixed installations are also treated.

In short, this is a high-quality reference book. All serious risk analysts should have it in their organization's if not their personal library. It is directed to technical specialists, but to a fairly broad range of specialists ranging from modelers and risk analysis to risk communicators.

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