

*Emergency Response and Hazardous Chemical Management: Principles and Practices*, C.B. Strong and T.R. Irvin, St. Lucie Press, Delray Beach, FL, 1996, \$49.95, 236 pp, ISBN: 1-884015-77-8

The major use for this book (according to comments in the Preface) is “to support the course and credential programs in environmental management and emergency response provided by the National Registry of Environmental Professionals (NREP).” What is written in the 17 short (approximately 10-page) chapters is reasonably well done, clear and concise. The coverage is not too bad (given space limitations) but the sequencing of material is strange. Indeed, the first chapter on workplace hazards during chemical emergency response actions should, in my judgment, appear after the spill scenario is presented or the danger of hazardous waste site remediation is discussed. Likewise, monitoring and detecting hazardous chemicals (Chapter 4) precedes discussion of volatile material spills and their disposal (actually it precedes the discussion because there is none).

I did, however, enjoy two chapters on (1) patching and capping of leaking containers and (2) hazardous chemical spill containment – probably because I appreciated the excellent diagrams. Conversely, I did not appreciate the limited number of references to the literature.

Finally, I did approve of the Appendix. Readers of my reviews will perhaps recall my dislike of long appendices, especially reprints of government regulations. In this case, I found the reprinting (in 40 pp.) of 29 CFR 1910.120 the USEPA’s regulations on hazardous waste operations and emergency response very useful as these regulations are so very important to the field.

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*Urban Air Pollution and Public Health. Proceedings of a Conference held at the Environmental Change Research Centre, University College London, Sept. 1994*, C.J. Curtis, J.M. Reed, R.W. Battarbee and R.M. Harrison (Eds.), Ensis Publishing, London, 1996, 96pp., ISBN: 1-871275-35-0

Air pollution has been a significant problem in the United Kingdom for centuries. John Evelyn’s classic *Fumifugium*, published in 1661, was an early recognition of the pollution caused by burning coal: the symbiotic combination of particulates and sulfur dioxide. The Great Smog of 1952 that caused 4000 deaths moved Parliament to pass the Clean Air Act of 1956. But as measures under the act were enforced (on coal burning), other areas of pollution, i.e., motor vehicles began to cause problems.

To assist in understanding urban air pollution and to chart directions for its improvement, the Environmental Change Research Centre had a one-day symposium. These proceedings contain 15 papers from that symposium plus discussion thereof.

There is a wealth of data in the papers showing much improved air quality over the years. The first paper contained a figure on trends in SO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in London.