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## Book reviews

*Hazardous Gases and Fumes*, Peter Warren, Butterworth Heinemann, Oxford 1997,  
Price £25.00, ISBN 0 7506 2090 0

The stated purpose of this little book is to provide a concise summary of the physical properties, detection methods, handling precautions and the biochemical and physiological effects of gases and fumes found at work. In the age of the computer, CD-ROM and hazard data sheets provided by chemical suppliers it would be a difficult task for the author to provide something not otherwise available. However, this slim volume pulls together information from a wide variety of sources on a large number of specific and generic substances which would be harmful when they become airborne. Additionally it provides information on analytical techniques for detecting and measuring gases, safety precautions and planning, and first aid for medical treatment of exposed people.

Substances and compounds are covered either singly, for example Acetylene and Hydrogen Fluoride or generically, for example Chromium and compounds and the inert gases. Toxic, flammable and explosive properties are all included. The substances are arranged alphabetically in the book but an index is also provided. This makes access straightforward and quick.

The book has a place in those environments where a wide range of gases and fumes might be encountered and where access to detailed safety information may not be immediately available. It is not a complete information source for a comprehensive risk assessment on particular substances but a detailed bibliography points the reader in other directions for this.

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