

Book reviews

Hattwig Martin, Steen Henrikus (Eds.), Handbook of Explosion Prevention and Protection, Wiley-VCH, John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, NJ, 2004, 718 pp., US\$ 325.00, ISBN 3-527-307184

In this book, the authors

“...detail those measures that prevent or limit industrial explosions and the damage so caused. They cover various preventative methods, as well as the current state of technology combined with data gained through experimentation.

This handbook offers operational planning, design and safety engineers working in industry, government agencies and professional associations in-depth knowledge of the scientific and technical basics, allowing them to apply explosion protection according to any given situation.”

The book was written by experts mainly drawn from German institutions such as the Federal Institute for Materials Research, as well as assorted experts from other European countries and the United States.

There are seven chapters in the text entitled:

- (1) Explosion processes.
- (2) Ignition processes.
- (3) Properties of reactive gases and vapours (safety characteristics).
- (4) Properties of combustible dusts (safety characteristics).
- (5) Properties of flammable mists and foams.
- (6) Measures of explosion protection and prevention.
- (7) Fundamentals of understanding and judging explosion risks.

This is a well-written very technical discussion of the topic. The information, I am sure will be of great utility to researchers and practitioners in the field.

Gary F. Bennett
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T.J. Morahan, Information Technology Solutions for EH&S Professionals, ABS Consulting, Government Institutes, Rockville, MD, 2003, US\$ 95.00, 275 pp., ISBN 0-86587-958-3.

Information technology, the author states in his Preface, “. . . has shaped the way we do business more than any other influence in the past two decades.” And indeed it has, especially in the environmental field where copious amounts of data and numerous reports constitute normal business tasks. Many of the aforementioned reports are required to be submitted to government agencies such as the US EPA. These reports clearly must be accurate and are required to be submitted in a timely manner.

The book’s contents are aptly described on the back cover as follows:

“This book addresses the technological options facilities have for handling, storing, and updating various types of EH&S information – including software application choices, network solutions, and database design, deployment, and operation. Also included are sections targeting specific kinds of information such as air emissions, accidents, and injuries, MSDS databases, electronic reporting and signatures, and security issues.

This reference begins with an overview of basic information technology concepts as they apply to EH&S professionals. The author then explains how EH&S professionals can use the concepts and technology to streamline the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of their current systems through Environmental Management Systems, Audit and Assessment Tools, ISO and Business Risk Solutions, Incident-Based Systems, and Geographic Information Systems. He provides detailed advice on project costing, scheduling, and budgeting, and he shows different steps to pull together information, manage it, continually update it, and analyze it so that effective decisions about EH&S liability can be made at any time based on real-time data. The author also explains the varying factors that different facilities must consider while determining the best way to manage their information”.

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