- Emergency response to terrorism incidents, including incident command, site control, personal protective equipment, air monitoring, and more.
- Updated information of revised OSHA regulations, including the respiratory protection standard, focusing on both its requirements and its application.
- Competency criteria mandated in the National Fire Protections Association's standard on emergency response.
- Emphasis on the Unified Command structure as part of the Incident Command System for managing large incidents.

Responding to terrorist threats is a problem that arose since the last edition. In response, this book has a new chapter (as noted above) entitled "Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction [WMD]." Subsections in this chapter include:

- Terrorism and weapons of mass destruction defined.
- The role of WMDs in terrorism incidents.
- Special considerations for terrorism events.
- Basic considerations for WMD agents.
- Types of WMD agents and their hazards.
- Basic guidelines for responding to terrorism/WMD incidents.

Additionally, there are added sections throughout the book specific to WMD response. These inclusions are in chapters dealing with site control, personal protective equipment and decontamination. Regardless of the topic discussed, the safety of emergency responders is emphasized throughout the book.

The first chapter (appropriately entitled "Introduction to Hazardous Materials") introduces the reader to hazardous materials by answering the following questions:

- What are hazardous materials?
- Why are we concerned about them?
- Why are they harmful?

"This chapter also provides an overview of hazardous materials response and response roles and explains how the book can be used training responders to fill these roles."

Of the definitions of hazardous materials provided (DOT's, EPA's and OSHA's) I like the one by Ludwig Benner, a former member of the US National Transportation Board, who "...defined a hazardous material as a substance that jumps out of its container at you when something goes wrong, and hurts or harms the things it touches."

Chapter 2, entitled "Response Laws, Regulations, Standards, and Other Policies," begins with a discussion of probably the worst chemical disaster in the United States – the Texas City, Texas, explosion of ammonium nitrate contained in the French Liberty Ship, Grandcamp. Killed, were 600 people (including the ship's crew and all 27 members of the local fire department). Interspersed in the book are stories of other famous (or should I say infamous) hazardous materials incidents including the near-catastrophic nuclear core reactor failure of the power plant at Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania; the release of methyl isocyanate in Bhopal, India; and the mishap at Union Carbide's pesticide plant in Institute, West Virginia that resulted in the release of aldicarb oxime pesticide. Also discussed in the book are BLEVEs as well as the explosion of a railroad tank car at Waverly, Tennessee containing LPG. More recent events such as the terrorist explosion at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the sarin release in a Japanese subway, and the September 11, 2001 attack on New York City also are mentioned.

While computer programs are not discussed extensively in this book, the contributors do discuss CAMEO (Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations), which is "a multifunctional multipurpose computer program system with 12 informational modules and three software programs." One of these programs is areal location of hazardous atmospheres (ALOHA), which calculates atmospheric chemical vapor dispersion.

Overall, the coverage of training for response to hazardous material incidents is comprehensive with chapters (in addition to the above) discussing response laws and regulations, incident management, chemical hazard assessment, human health effects of chemicals, physical hazards, air surveillance, site control, personal protective equipment and decontamination. Even discussed, is the impact of stress in emergency response.

My overall evaluation of this book is that it is well written with the inclusion of numerous tables, figures, and photographs to illustrate the points made and will well-serve the response community. All fire departments and response units will be well-advised to purchase a copy.

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Nolberto Munier, Multicriteria Environmental Assessment: A Practical Guide, Kluwer Academic Publishers/Springer, Dordrecht, The Netherlands, 2004, ISBN 1-4020-2089-9 (320 pp., Paperback, US$ 61, EUR€ 55, GPB 38).

The jacket cover states, "The purpose of this book is to analyze, with actual examples, different techniques that have been developed to tackle the complex task of making an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of a project."

This assessment goes beyond economics to appraise impacts such as:

- how people's way of life will be affected;
- how significant the alteration produced in the social fabric will be;
- what the result will be of using certain renewable and non-renewable resources;
- how much the expected economic development will cost in terms of loss of resources sustainability;
- how to measure what is not easily measurable: enjoying a sunset, a stroll in a tropical forest, climbing a mountain, etc.;
- how to integrate the technical and environmental aspects of projects with the desires, wishes and needs of the population.

The book's subtitle contains the words "a practical guide" and so it is. The book is designed to allow one to conduct a study of the environmental impact of a project with a view to identifying alternatives that would cause a minimal environmental impact. The book is very much a "how to" rather than a "theoretical" approach to the topic.

In Chapter 1 definitions are given regarding the different concepts involved in the environment assessment procedure, and a key question is answered related with the necessity of developing an EIA for most projects. Topics discussed include (as noted above) the definition of strategic environmental assessment, environmental and socioeconomic impact assessment, economic development and sustainability. A key section discusses the EIA problem as "The EIA tries to find a balance between the benefits a project brings and the damages it will produce, in other words tries to compromise between economic development and the damages to the environment."

The chapter ends with two sections discussing the decision-making process, i.e., how a decision is reached for selecting a project or program. References given in this chapter, as in the other chapters, are to Internet web sites, in contrast to normal procedure where the print literature is cited.

Subsequent chapters go into the details of evaluating projects and their impacts. Numerous examples of the evaluation process and useful check lists are given. The book is thoroughly up-to-date with one section discussing the latest concept in project review—Life Cycle Analysis.

This is very much a "how to" book. It is not a book that you pick up and read randomly. However, if one is tasked with environmental impact analysis he/she will find the book very useful.

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Ruediger Kuehr, Eric Williams (Eds.), Computers and the Environment: Understanding and Managing their Impacts, Kluwer Academic Publishers/Springer, Dordrecht, The Netherlands, 2003, ISBN 1-4020-1679-4, 293 pp., Price US$ 83.00, € 75, GBP 52.

This book is the 14th published by Kluwer in their Eco-efficiency in Industry and Science Series. As the title notes, the environmental impact of computers, especially personal computers (PCs) beginning with their production continuing through their useful lifespan and ending with their disposal is discussed.

Given the meteoric increase in computer usage and the potentially harmful components used in their manufacture, this is a timely publication. In the first chapter, the editors note that global annual production of computers in 2000 was 113 million machines and in April 2002, the billionth personal computer was shipped.

Unfortunately, as all users have discovered, PCs have a short useful life. Consequently, discarded products from the PC sector have the highest growth rate of all materials in municipal and industrial waste. Of the 20.6 million PCs that became obsolete in the US in 1998, only 12% were recycled and 75% were put into storage.

The goal of this book is to ". . . shed light on the following specific issues:

- The environmental impacts incurred when producing PCs.
- Electricity consumption in the use phase.
- Environmental impacts of disposing of computers in landfills.
- How green design of PCs can reduce environmental impacts.
- Industrial perspectives and activities of leading computer companies.
- Economic, managerial, and technological aspects of recycling.
- The role of consumers in influencing the supply of green PCs and implementing environmentally friendly end-of-life options.
- Evaluation of the environmental effectiveness of reselling, upgrading, and recycling computers.
- How used-PC markets can extend the product lifespan.
- How governmental (both national and regional) and non-governmental policy initiatives deal with the environmental management of PCs."

In Chapter 2, "The authors discuss how the disposition (i.e., storage, landfilling, and recycling) of end-of-life equipment plays an important role in the direct environmental impacts of used PCs." Continuing on in Chapter 3, the discussion focuses on the environmental impacts of both the