

**Alfred R. Conklin Jr., Rolf Meinholtz (Eds.), *Field Sampling: Principles and Practices in Environmental Analysis*, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, NY, 2004, 369 pages, Price: US\$ 139.95, ISBN 0-8247-5471-9.**

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20 July 2005

Available online 26 September 2005

According to the author, "The basic concept behind this book is to bring together in one place all the information and tools important for successful sampling of the environment and to present in a manner useful in both commercial and academic settings." In my opinion, he has done this well.

Interestingly, Conklin has an agricultural background. His current position is as a Professor of Agriculture and Chemistry at Wilmington College in Ohio. Consequently, much of the book focuses upon agricultural topics, but not all.

Conklin addresses a wide variety of topics important to sampling. This coverage is shown by the variety of chapters in the book:

1. Introduction to field sampling
2. Characteristics of the environment
3. Presampling
4. Safety
5. Sampling
6. Statistics
7. Modeling
8. Sampling transport and storage
9. What is present?
10. An overview of the basic principles of analytical methods
11. Traps, mistakes, and errors

Given my background which tends toward the hazardous chemical area, it is not surprising that I read the chapter on safety with much interest. It was well done. The 30 pages devoted to the topic covered the essentials of safe sampling from MSDSs to personal exposure protection.

There were excellent discussions of modern techniques such as ground penetrating radar, remote sensing, global positioning systems, and geographical information systems were briefly discussed. Appropriate followup references were given.

I quote finally from the flyer that accompanied the book:

"The book covers presampling planning and decision-making, specific sampling situations, and correct sample labeling, and presents the framework and background for the sampling of any contaminated site." It presents a "wide variety of models, quality control procedures, and valuable troubleshooting methods."

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doi:10.1016/j.jhazmat.2005.07.071

**Emergencies Science and Technology Division, Proceedings of the 28th Arctic and Marine Oilspill Program (AMOP), Technical Seminar (two volumes), Environmental Protection Service of Environment, Ottawa, Ont., Canada, 2005, 1134 pp., USD: no cost given, ISBN: none.**

Thanks to Dr. Merv Fingas, one of the editors of the *Journal of Hazardous Materials*, I have again been sent the proceedings of his excellent conference, now in its 28th year. As usual, the papers deal with a wide-ranging list of topics; 69 papers were delivered in 14 separate sessions by scientists from 14 different countries. The list of contributors is outpaced by Fingas, himself, who contributed to no less than 15 papers.

The session topic titles illustrate the wide-ranging nature of the conference coverage:

1. Physical and chemical properties and behaviour of spilled oil
2. Oil spill fingerprinting
3. Activity updates and contingency planning
4. Oil spill risk assessment
5. In situ burning and oil spill treating agents
6. Containment and recovery
7. Shoreline protection and cleanup
8. Technical seminar on chemical spills: special session on counter-terrorism
9. Technical seminar on chemical spills
10. Detection, tracking and remote sensing
11. Spill modelling
12. Biological effects of oil and oil biodegradation
13. Recent spill experiences
14. Papers from poster presentations

Given that I was reading the proceedings at the same time as the terrorist attack in the United Kingdom, it is not surprising that a session dealing with that topic caught my attention. It contained the following papers on counter-terrorism:

- The restoration project: decontamination of facilities from chemical, biological and radiological contamination after terrorist actions
- Evaluation of liquid-phase oxidation for the destruction of potential chemical terrorism agents
- Remediation following a CBRN terrorist attack: domestic and international perspectives