
PREFACE

Effective emergency response planning, whether for incidents that derive from natural causes or for those that derive from human actions, demands both persistent and consistent liaison and coordination among a large diversity of governmental agencies, response organizations, and community support resources. While it remains true that professional fire services continue to bear the day-to-day responsibility of responding to local disasters, it is also true that several factors in modern society converge toward a broader expansion of this responsibility into both public and private domains. These factors include: (a) the complexity of modern industries and technologies that are dependent on the continual development of new material sources of physical, chemical, and biological hazards and risks; (b) the on-going merging of dense population areas with diverse technology and production centers; and (c) the increasing availability of hazardous technologies and agents to those sociopaths who, whether as individuals or groups, are best described as terrorists.

The increasingly global recognition that any incident—whether a hurricane or a bombing, an accidental release of a toxic industrial gas or a purposeful contamination of items essential for daily commerce—can be easily magnified in its toll of human life by the very way we conduct our lives and structure our societies has profound implications for the emergency planning process. This book addresses some of the more important of these implications, especially with regard to industrial and municipal planning and response.

This book is not intended for practicing professional emergency response personnel but, rather, for corporate and municipal managers who must quickly come to understand their essential roles in both proactive and reactive emergency management in the midst of an as yet evolving partnership among Federal, state, and local governmental agencies as well as among public and private community sectors. This book is also intended for use in graduate and undergraduate classes and programs devoted to such issues as emergency planning and response, hazard and risk management, occupational safety and health, industrial loss control, environmental safety and health, and corporate risk management. Finally, this book should provide

industrial health and safety consultants with essential guidance in designing and implementing effective contingency and/or emergency response plans for industrial clients.

For both the design and the development of this book, I am indebted to many individuals—in particular, Dr. Robert Zukowski, for his persistent and thoughtful encouragement and advice; Dato' Soh Chai Hock, for sharing his professional insight and affording me his always enthusiastic support; and Augustine Koh, who by both his patient counsel and personal example continues to sustain (what I trust is) my best professional effort.

In developing this book I have appropriated relevant materials I included in my previous book on occupational health and safety (*Practical Guide to Occupational Health and Safety*, Academic Press, 1996), and I have certainly drawn heavily upon my 25 years of experience as a full-time industrial consultant. However, I also give special recognition to vital sources of both printed and electronic publications that I have absolutely depended on throughout my writing, including U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Centers for Disease Control, U.S. Public Health Services, Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Response Team, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Each of these agencies maintains excellent web pages and well-designed tools for accessing detailed databases and professional documents that are essential reading for any manager with responsibility for emergency response planning and management.

I also single out for special recognition the U.S. Fire Administration, which not only maintains a superb reference library for professionals but also provides rapid, dependable, and extremely user-friendly means for accessing that library.