day to ban outright any further manufacture or sale of antipersonnel mines. Now that’s what I call NEWS!

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BOOK REVIEW


There must be literally hundreds of books of this sort now in circulation. Probably every major safety group has produced one, but this stands head and shoulders above most of its competitors. Although normally book reviews in this journal deal with scientific publications, an exception is warranted because of the journal’s mandate. Our job is to bring important material to all our readers, many of whom are in the trenches and not scientists.

What makes this book special is three features. First, it is comprehensive, without being unduly large. Second, it is beautifully illustrated with a great use of colour and drawings. And third, the messages are straightforward and to the point. A critically important message is safety has obviously been taken to ensure that the level of the language used is accessible to most readers. Another essential point is that, so far as I can judge, the advice provided is invariably accurate and up-to-date.

An especially appealing aspect is the organization of each section. Many begin with a vignette or case history, accompanied by a colour photo, presumably of the victim. This is followed by a section presenting the facts, another on prevention, and a third, on first aid. Inside the foldout cover is a summary of ‘life threatening emergencies’ organized along developmental lines: baby, small child, large child.

The injuries covered include: bites and stings, bleeding, bone, muscle and joint injuries, burns, choking, drowning, eye injuries, needlestick injuries, poisoning, teeth injuries, and traffic accidents. In addition, there is a section on common childhood illnesses. It includes a good index, and inside the back cover there is a section for emergency numbers and numbers.

There are, of course, some shortcomings. It is intended primarily for Australian readers, so that, for example, the listing of poisonous plants include many that are not found in Europe. Nevertheless, in almost every other respects, it is useful for English reading parents world wide. I was also a bit disappointed not to find much that urges parents to engage in advocacy as a way to make their homes and playgrounds safer, but perhaps this is a bit unfair, given the intentions of the authors. And, of course, I would have preferred to see less of the awful ‘A word.

But these are truly trivial concerns and only intended to show that I read it carefully. It is an excellent book; undoubtedly, one of the best of its kind. Despite its modest cost, whether parents who need it most will actually rush out to buy it will depend, in part, on how strongly it is endorsed by health professionals and those in child safety programmes.

Safety and First Aid Book is a publication of the Melbourne’s Royal Children’s Hospital Safety Centre. The authors are a safety consultant (Jennifer Brown) and an intensive care paramedic (Tony Walker).

I BARRY PLESS
Editor, Montreal

CALENDAR

25 February-1 March 1998, Safety in Action 1998, Melbourne, Australia: this is a conference for researchers in health and safety, health and safety professionals, public health workers, consumer organisations, and government representatives and will look at how a safer society can be created, including taking a fresh look at designing and delivering safe systems. Themes include the latest developments in safety science and engineering, trends in hygiene, ergonomics and health science which apply to safety and demonstrating practical solutions to safety problems at work, on the road, in the home, and during sports and leisure activities. Further details: Safety in Action, Suite 17, 51-55 City Road, Southbank, Victoria 3006, Australia.

JOURNAL CITATIONS

Editor’s note: these citations have been culled from the following databases: Medline, Current Contents, Psych Abstracts, and Social Science Citation Index, Cinahl. Your comments are welcome, as well as suggestions about other pertinent databases.

Methods