

BOOK REVIEWS

Survival for aircrew by Sarah-Jane Prew. 1st edition published by Ashgate Publishers Limited, Gower House, Croft Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 3HR, England. 1999. Price £ 35, Hardbound with 130 pages. Available with Standard Book Company, Near Dairy Circle, Banerghatta Road, Bangalore.

The book is written with the aircrew, cabin crew and the passengers in mind. Special emphasis has been given to the role of crew as leaders of the group, in a survival situation and is aimed to teach survival techniques to crew as well as passengers.

The book is written in a simple and lucid manner and deals with aspects of sea and land survival. Special situations on land, like the desert, jungle and snow survival have also been covered. The need for the positive attitude in the survival situation has been highlighted. Actual photographs, instead of simple illustrations of the survival equipment and improvisations would have improved the content of the book.

Certain aspects like identification of poisonous and non-poisonous plants, hunting animals and evading them are not included, with the premise that food shall not be the prime concern in a survival situation. It is a good instructional tool for teaching the subject to the intended user population.

* * *

Managing the Risks of Organisational Accidents by James Reason. 1st edition 1997 (2nd reprint 1988) published by Ashgate Publishers

Limited, Gower House, Croft Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 3HR, England. Price £ 45, Hardbound with 252 pages. Available with Standard Book Company, Near Dairy Circle, Banerghatta Road, Bangalore.

The book argues in favour of a different approach in safety management. There are examples spanning various industries highlighting the illustrative points of organisational accidents. The figures and tables are adequate and effectively used to emphasise the salient points. The text of the book is lucid and unambiguous. It gives conceptual solutions rather than specific ones hence increasing the relevance of the book to many industries other than aviation.

The book is an endeavour to identify general principles and tools that are applicable to all organisations facing dangers of accidents from within and without. The book will be an invaluable tool for the exponent of human factors, and help in the conceptualisation of the role they have in organisational accidents. The book can help to formulate strategies to reduce such accidents by timely interventions.

It is especially recommended for the institutions involved in multi-disciplinary interactions with many outside agencies/institutions. It is a must for reference libraries.

Contributed by

Wg Cdr Pankaj Tyagi, *Classified Specialist (Av Med)* and **Sqn Ldr Vipin Sharma**, Advance Course Trainee, IAM IAF, Vimanapura PO, Bangalore-560 017.