

Alastair Hay

The Chemical Scythe Lessons of 2, 4, 5-T and Dioxin (Disaster Research in Practice Series)



The Chemical Scythe may be the first book in a projected series to be published by Plenum Press in colaboration with the International Disaster Institute. Hay's book is an authoritative account of the chemistry and proven and potential effects of dioxins, and of the impli cations for protection planning. The issue of chemical hazards is one that we will need to learn to live with in upcoming decades. Hay's investigation in to the nature and ramifications of dioxins heralds the brand new series. It is fitting, as a result, that Dr. Dr. The purpose of the series, Disaster Study in Practice, is to provide scientific and readable accounts on the most urgent areas of disaster research. And yet it is just through the painstaking analysis exemplified in this publication that it will eventually end up being pos sible to market the vital accountability on the part of industrialists and governments. The accident at Seveso in 1976 alerted the world to an imperfectly un derstood but immensely alarming environmental hazard. Public debate and argument as to the implications of dioxins and, indeed, the use of herbicides as intense weapons in Vietnam, rage on. He concludes with a careful, yet optimistic note-that indeed we can learn to live with such hazards, providing that people are prepared to understand and plan for the unexpected.



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