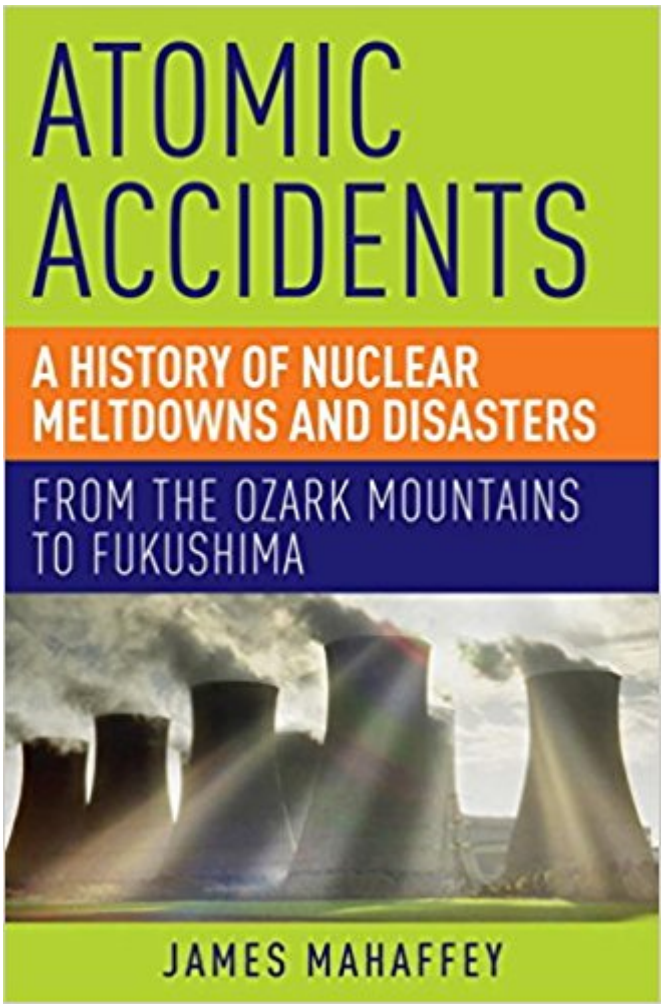
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Atomic Accidents: A History Of Nuclear Meltdowns And Disasters: From The Ozark Mountains To Fukushima



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Synopsis

A gripping narrative of nuclear mishaps and meltdowns around the globe, all of which have proven pivotal to the advancement of nuclear science.From the moment radiation was discovered in the late nineteenth century, nuclear science has had a rich history of innovative scientific exploration and discovery, coupled with mistakes, accidents, and downright disasters. Mahaffey, a long-time advocate of continued nuclear research and nuclear energy, looks at each incident in turn and analyzes what happened and why, often discovering where scientists went wrong when analyzing past meltdowns. Every incident has lead to new facets in understanding about the mighty atomÃ¢â ¬â ¢and Mahaffey puts forth what the future should be for this final frontier of science that still holds so much promise. 16 pages of color and B&W images, charts and graphs throughout

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Customer Reviews

Nuclear engineer MahaffeyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Atomic Awakening (2009) presented an engaging history of nuclear energy that came close to offering a ringing endorsement for its continued widespread use. Although his latest work focuses mostly on radioactivityÃ¢â ¬â„¢s dark side, from its discovery in 1896 to its role in the recent Fukushima meltdown, Mahaffey nonetheless does argue persuasively that, by closely investigating its shortcomings, nuclear power can be made safer. Mahaffey begins with an episode of radiation poisoning that occurred in an Ozarks cave where hunters were exposed to radon gas, and offers a survey of nuclear weapons development, including the troubling disappearance of several H-bombs, before addressing historyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most famous nuclear

accidents. Entire chapters are devoted to dissecting what went wrong at Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, Fukushima, and Windscale, a lesser-known UK facility that burned uncontrollably for two days in 1957. While MahaffeyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s subtext about nuclear powerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s overall safety likely wonÃ¢â ¬â„¢t sit well with the practiceÃ¢â ¬â„¢s many opponents, his abundant use of lively anecdotes and intriguing scientific tidbits makes this an educational page-turner. --Carl Hays --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Ã¢â ¬Å“Mahaffey guides us through more than a century of atomic research, including misadventures with radioactive elixirs and long-forgotten accidents. The compelling tales unravel like slow-motion horror stories.Ã¢â ¬Â• - NATUREÃ¢â ¬Å“From clueless hunters wandering into caves teeming with radon-222, to fervid dreams of nuclear jets, and reactors bucking like steeds unused to human contact, Mahaffey keeps things appropriately dramatic. Truly valuable.Ã¢â ¬Â• - NewsweekÃ¢â ¬Å“Mahaffey employs his extensive knowledge of nuclear engineering to produce a volume that is by turns alarming, thought-provoking, humorous, and always fascinating.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Publishers Weekly, STARRED REVIEW

I purchased this book in an effort learn about the history of Atomic energy and its effects on our civilization. I hoped it would provide me with this knowledge. I was not disappointed.The writer did an credible job in explaining a very difficult subject. There were times when his explanations were "too much". But, that can be expected. He was able to mix a bit of sarcasm and humor while letting the reader know just how catastrophic was the situation. And he did so without appearing crass or uncaring. As a writer he was much better than the average scientist who plays with the literary field.It was obvious the author had a vast resevour of knowledge concerning the topic. He related incidents of which I had no previous knowledge and the ones of which I was aware he supplied information that I had not previously heard.Even though the writer covers a lot ground and at times the prose appearedTo be a little tedious, I found this a very intertaining book. I gained a good bit if knowledge starting with the advent of the atomic age till the present.I would recommend this book to anyone who has a desire to gain the knowledge concerning the history of atomic energy.

I'll read any book I can get my hands on where the topic concerns the history of nuclear technology, so when recommended Atomic Accidents I clicked "buy" without any expectations. I'm glad I did because this is one of the best books I've read on the subject of atomic power and the practical physics behind reactor design and fuel processing. Mahaffey has a very engaging writing style and

his in-depth knowledge of the subject along with a skillful presentation made reading this book both enjoyable and instructive. I recommend Atomic Accidents as an excellent presentation of "lessons learned" over the past century (particularly the period spanning World War II through Chernobyl). I hope that this book is required reading for students studying Nuclear Engineering and I'd also recommend it to anyone interested in understanding how nuclear power plants could be a safe part of solving our need for clean power.

This is a well written book. It deals with a technical subject in a way that can be understood by a non-technical reader. As a person who formerly worked in the industry, I found the added explanations to be clear enough for the non-technical reader without being tedious for the professional. Rather than being a dry recitation of the facts, which would have still been a useful historical compilation, the author presented the material in a way that I found to be entertaining reading. I found the author's comments and conclusions on safety to be a well reasoned common sense approach which added to the value of the book. It was also clear that the author went to great lengths to ensure that the historical information was a accurate and complete as possible.The Kindle edition made it convenient to view each footnote and easily return to my place in the text. It would have been great if at the end of each chapter there were a similar link to the photos collected at the back of the book. They were still useful even though I saw them only after reading the rest of the book.

This is a really interesting and chilling book. I think the author's intent, as someone who it seems has worked in the industry, was to reassure readers that nuclear power is relatively safe. After reading it, however, I wondered how we've all managed to stay alive. There are tons of interesting anecdotes, some amusing, some sad and tragic but at the least very instructional. Human error and misreading of events have contributed to a lot of the worst accidents. The book was also somewhat of a wake up call to me. As troubled as the U.S. nuclear industry appears to be it sure sounds like you don't want to live near reactors in some other countries, like India, and you get the distinct feeling that another disaster like the most recent one in Japan is probably a certainty. I don't have an engineering background but I was able to follow most of the technical explanations and as a lay person have a much better feel for how reactors work. The writing was pretty accessible and I really couldn't put the book down at times.

Extremely interesting book.Jim Mahaffey was losing me at first with all the physics/science involved,

but thanks to the internet I was able to catch on...sort of.At first I thought he was attempting to frighten the world against nuclear energy, but I didn't come away with that feeling.Mr. Mahaffey is also skilled at extracting humor out of a disaster without seeming offensive.Anyone with interest in engineering, science, or love of disaster documentaries will like this book.

This book is the ultimate "spin" document with a surprisingly positive take on nuclear power (and weapons) development. It is fantastic with a clever self-deprecating tone that makes for a very amusing read. I live in the Pacific Islands and did have a slight stomach ache at the cavalier description (or lack thereof) regarding the impacts of the nuclear testing on the fishing and boating communities that lived in the regions where we decided such an impact didn't matter. But speeches about the ongoing payments to the people of the Marshall Islands, etc and other such tales are for another book. I really do recommend reading it and feel like it should be curriculum material for high school students. I'm buying additional copies and passing them around.

Do you enjoy a good techno thriller? Do you sometimes wish for more "techno" and less fictitious "thriller"? Is that what's troubling you Bunkie?Well here's nonstop, detailed narrative of seemingly every man-made screw up since the beginning of the nuclear age. Who'd of thunk that there were so many ways to improperly store, use, re-cycle, and dispose of radioactive materials? Even bomb yields were sometimes way off. How many nuclear weapons have gone lost or missing? You might be surprised.You don't have to be a physicist to enjoy this book, I found it very entertaining.

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