



CHIEF'S FILE CABINET

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The Biggest Little Books

Have you ever heard the cliché that you can't tell a book by its cover? Personally I have never believed that because I read covers extensively in bookstores and if the cover and the first two pages don't capture your attention you usually don't get much beyond that. Another cliché about books is that big books are somehow better than little books. Again, I take exception with that contention. For example, reading War and Peace in the original version is laborious. Reading a comic book version sometimes gets you there fast, but you miss out on a lot of detail.

A good example of how both of these clichés could be used to help you is found in the work of FM Global. This company has for many years produced several little "pocket guides" that are amongst the biggest little books you will ever find. If you are in the fire prevention business you would be well advised to access these booklets and make them part of the reading library of your organization. If you are in fire suppression they belong in the hands of every firefighter on the line.

Over the years the company has produced several little books that are very valuable. One has been provided that deals with Fire sprinklers, another with Fire Investigation, and another with Pre-fire Planning. The company has made these booklets available for fire service use through a combination distribution through their dealers and making them available from the company publications site.

FM Global (www.fmglobal.com) has recently issued a brand new pocket guide entitled "Pocket Guide to Inspecting, Testing and Maintaining Fire Protection Equipment". This document was produced in partnership with TSB Loss Control Consultants, Inc., a member of the FM Global Group. The guide which is 90 pages in length is only 4" x 5" in size. It can easily fit into a jacket pocket or in a pre-fire planning box on a fire apparatus.

According to the introduction to this manual it is being made available for informational purposes only in support of the insurance relationship between FM Global and its clients. However, like all the other pocket guides it is available through their resources catalog for use by the fire service. In the previous paragraph we noted that there is a website for FM Global. Every fire department has sprinklered properties to protect should be availing themselves of the opportunity to add the book to their inventory of training materials. On that website is a resource catalog link that will take you to a listing of many of their small guides. On that page there is an area that says, "shop by category" that will provide you with the following categories:

- Engineering Solutions
- Equipment Hazards
- Firefighting and Fire Service
- Fire Prevention Control



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- Fire Protection Equipment
 - Hot Work
 - Human Factors
 - Natural Hazards
 - Property Protection

Under the client seminar and workshop session is a listing of courses of instruction that FM Global conducts.

From a fire prevention point of view, the firefighting and fire service page is a treasure chest. Not only is there information to assist fire departments but there is also stuff that can be used for public education. I found one of the most interesting entries' to be FM Global's Resource Catalog for Public Fire Service Professionals. This eight-paged catalog details various FM Global's resources that public service professionals can obtain.

According to the website FM Global has been in the business about 170 years. Their experience shows. All of these materials are simple but not simplistic. They are comprehensive but not overly burdensome on details. As mentioned earlier, the pocket guides for arson investigation, prefire planning, and fighting fires in sprinklered buildings are all valuable tools, which are basic information for the fire professional and should be in the hands of all company members.

Their latest manual, the Pocket Guide to Inspecting focuses on specific techniques conducting weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual inspections. It includes a section on trouble shooting problems. It is a very valuable little book.