nitrate just discussed. These fertilizers do not burn as we commonly understand the term. However, at very high temperatures, they will decompose and some may release toxic gases or smoke.

In summary, burning agricultural chemicals, particularly pesticides, will likely produce toxic gases, vapors, and smoke. Avoid them, stay upwind, wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

Fire fighting tactics. There are special tactics for agricultural chemical fires. Step 1 is to get in touch with the facility manager. Shortly after arriving at the site, a decision must be made whether to fight the fire or let it burn. Step 2 is to alert medical personnel about possible treatment of poisoning gases, both the fire fighters and the public downwind. Step 3 is to get in touch with the facility's major supplier, either direct or through CHEMTREC. Step 4 is normally handled by the police department. Evacuate areas downwind and isolate the immediate area. Wear personal protective equipment. Stay upwind of the smoke. It may be toxic. Also, remain a safe distance from burning bottles, drums, metal, and aerosol cans.

Prevent the fire from spreading by cooling nearby containers and buildings. If possible, move vehicles way from the fire site.

Use as little water as possible on pesticide fires. This is a very important point and contrary to normal fire fighting practices. There are several reasons. The run-off may become contaminated with pesticides. The water will cool the burning pesticides, resulting in incomplete combustion. What we are faced with may be intermediate compounds of unknown properties, perhaps more toxic than the original chemicals. A hot fire will decompose the pesticides to less toxic compounds and cause less air pollution. The water will boil and cause steam to rise, possibly carrying toxic pesticides into the air. As this drifts to cooler air away from the fire, the pesticides drop as toxic fall-out. The chemicals involved in the fire are ruined anyway. Too much water just leaves more toxic debris and contaminated water to be safely disposed of.

For ammonium nitrate fertilizer fires, just the opposite is recommended. Use as much water as possible and play it directly onto the pile.

For pesticide fires, a fog spray is more effective for control than straight streams of water. Straight streams will break bags and bottles, adding fuel to the fire and increasing the contamination. They can also raise dust clouds which may ignite violently as discussed for sulfur dust.

And lastly, in case of contact with the product, smoke, mist or run-off, leave the site immediately and wash face and hands before eating or smoking.

ABSTRACT

Chadwick, L.D. 1978. **The Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers.** American Nurseryman 158(3): 13, 110-116.

The Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers has been trying to encourage people — homeowners, insurance agencies, government officials and the Internal Revenue Service — to think about trees. In the three years of its existence, there has been some progress made, but there is much more to be done. What is CTLA? The Council is composed of a representative from each of the five supporting organizations — International Society of Arboriculture, American Society of Consulting Arborists, National Arborist Association, American Association of Nurserymen, and the Associated Landscape Contractors of America. The activities of the Council, during the latter part of 1977, and to date in 1978, fall into four major categories: contacts with Insurance Services Office, contacts with IRS and other governmental agencies, public relations activities and revision of the Evaluation Guide and a related activity.