

*The author dedicates this book to the memory of countless number of innocent human beings who lost their lives in terrorist explosions all over the world with the prayer that this planet will be free from the clutches of terrorism in the near future.*

*High energy materials (HEMs; explosives, propellants, and pyrotechnics) are very dangerous if they are not handled with care and caution. In my career spanning over three decades, I have witnessed gruesome accidents, some of them fatal, at almost every stage, synthesis, scale-ups, production, testing, and even waste disposal of HEMs. The victims of those accidents include not only the beginners who were ignorant but also veterans who were either overconfident or complacent. Odds are highly against you when HEMs are handled with disregard for standard operating procedures (SOPs) and the “Dos and Don’ts.” Read Chapter 8 on safety for more details. Remember that like fire and electricity, HEMs can be your best friend or worst enemy depending on how you handle them.*