

EXPERIMENTS! DEMOS!

DISASTERS?



FILM CANISTER ROCKETS

What you need:

- Film canister (or other air tight container)
- Water
- Alka-seltzer tablets

How you do it:

Fill 1/3-1/2 of film canister with water. Add about 1/3-1/4 of alka-seltzer tablet. Sit on a flat surface lid down. Wait. Enjoy rocket reaction.

What happens?

When the alka-seltzer reacts with the water it gives off a gas called carbon dioxide. This gas builds up inside the film canister. Once the air pressure reaches the film canister's capacity, the gas needs a way to escape. This results in the canister flying away from the lid.

Experiment at home:

- How does the amount of water alter the distance the rocket travels?
- How does the size of the alka-seltzer tablet piece alter the distance the rocket travels?
- Does the temperature of the water affect the distance the rocket travels?
- Which container works best?