

Activity 7: Making Your Own Fire Extinguisher

What You Need

Vinegar
Bicarbonate of soda
A plastic bottle
Tubing
A bung that fits the top of the bottle and has a hole big enough for the tubing to be pushed through
A candle
A foil plate or the plastic lid of a screw-top jar
A funnel
Measuring spoons

What You Do

- Push the tubing through the hole in the bung.
- Carefully light the candle and stand it upright on the lid. (Melting the base of the candle beforehand a little will help it attach to the lid.)
- Using the funnel, put 3 teaspoons of bicarbonate of soda into the bottle.
- Pour the vinegar into the bottle until it's about one-third full.
- Put the bung (with its tubing attached) quickly and firmly into the neck of the bottle while keeping a finger over the free end of the tube.
- Move your finger away and point the end of the tube at the lighted candle.
- **Be careful not to let the tube touch the candle.**
- Observe what happens to the candle.

