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The Dangers Under the Kitchen Sink

In this experiment, the hypothesis states that out of all of the household products tested in a potato cannon, starter fluid will launch a potato the farthest because of its explosive properties. This means that when a potato is put in a potato cannon, aimed at an angle of 40°, and a propellant is sprayed in the cannon's chamber for three seconds, starter fluid will send the potato the farthest. Thirteen different aerosol sprays, ranging from cleaning products to cooking spray, were each tested three times by spraying each aerosol into a potato cannon's chamber for three seconds, and igniting. The three results for each product were averaged but did not give an accurate reflection of the data because the results of seven out of the nine products showed a variation of more than 100 feet between the three tests. Given the differences in test results with the same product, it was likely the unplanned variables played a role in the results. Since the starter fluid did not even launch the potato, and the majority of the rest of the aerosol sprays did, we can conclude that most household aerosols are more explosive than starter fluid. From these results, it is clear that aerosol sprays are potentially hazardous.