CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2009 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)
John H. Bell, III

Project Number
J1501

Project Title
Does the Surface Material that a Blood Spatter Lands on Affect Its Shape and Size?

Abstract

Objectives/Goals
I investigated if the surface material a blood spatter lands on affects its width. I used five different materials, glass (control), dry wall, wood, leather, and cloth (cotton). I hypothesized that the widest spatter would be on the dry wall and the narrowest would be on the glass. I cut out five squares of each material. I dropped 0.1cc of mock blood from a syringe from a height of 130cm above the surface. I repeated this for all 50 squares of material. After drying, I measured the width of each spatter with calipers. My results proved my hypothesis wrong. The widest spatter was on the cloth with a width of 9.8mm, the dry wall was 9.7mm. the leather was 9.0mm, the wood was 8.8mm, and the glass was 8.6mm. I concluded that the more absorbent and textured the material the wider the blood would spatter.

Summary Statement
My project demonstrates how the surface material that a blood spatter lands on affect its shape and size.

Help Received
I received help from my parents on the construction of my launch platform. Also, I corresponded with Ronald J. Raquel, a