

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2002 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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Project Number

22051

Project Title

Natural Disasters

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

I wanted to find out how moisture and soil type affects landslides and mudshide

Methods/Materials

In this experiment I used: 1 complete apparatus with filter, 5 gallons of silt, 5 gallons of sand, 5 gallons of, dirt, 5 gallons of gravel, a measuring cup, an oven, a set of hands a hose, 2 baking dishes. Methods: For this experiment, I placed 12 cups of the substance on a moving board inside the apparatus and shaped it into a 10 degree angle to simulate a hill. Next, I gradually moved the board up to 10 degrees, 20 degrees, 30 degrees, 40 degrees, 45 degrees, 50 degrees, and then 60 degrees. When 4 cups of the substance fell into the measuring cup, I considered that a landslide or muddide. I did this experiment when when the substances were dry, when 3 cups of water had been added to the substance, and when 8 cups of water had been added to the substance under each condition.

Results

The average angle at which substances slid under dry tonditions: Str.: 34 degrees. Sand: 30 degreesx Dirt: 30 degrees. Gravel: 32 degrees

The average angle at which substances slid under vet conditions: Silt: 30 degrees. Sand: 34 degrees. Dirt: 37 degrees. gravel: 30 degrees.

The average angle at which substances slid under very vet conditions: Silt: 12 degrees. Sand: 24 degrees. dirt: 18 degrees. Gravel: 20 degrees.

Conclusions/Discussion

My predictions for dry conditions were that gravel yould be the sturdiest, then dirt, silt, and then sand. But it turned out that silt was the sturdiest, followed by gravel, and then dirt and sand were tied.

I thought that under the wet conditions, the order would be the same as under wet conditions. But dirt was really the most stable, in second was fund and then tied for last were gravel and silt.

Under the very wet conditions, my predictions were that the most stable substance would again be gravel, then sand, followed by thread then sand. The results showed that sand was the most stable, the gravel, dirt, and finally sill the sand was the most stable, the gravel, dirt, and finally sill the sand was the most stable.

These results weren't wally true to my hypothesis, although some of the predictions were.

This experiment helps people understand soil stability and the importance of it while making a road. It also tells your soil is the best to use when making a road.

Summary Statement

Testing low soil type and moisture affect landslides and mudslides.

Help Received

Dad helped build apparatus. Talked with Storm Damage Coordinator at Cal Trans(Dale Couly) about money used to clean up landslides and mudslides.