CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2002 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)
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Project Number
22072

Project Title
Comparing Energy in Different Types of Wood

Abstract

Objectives/Goals
My objective was to learn which wood , Douglas Fir or Oak, produced the most energy when burnt.

Methods/Materials
a full size steam locomitive was used. Douglas Fir and Oak wood were burned seperatley in the fire box of the steam locomotive. The amount of wood of each type was recorded when 50#'s of steam preasure was reached. Each test was timed . Both types of wood reached the 50#'s of pressure. However , the Douglas Fir realsed its energy quicker than the same amount of Oak wood.

Results
both types of wood reached 50 pounds of steam pressure. However, the Douglas Fir released its energy quicker then the same amount of Oak wood.

Conclusions/Discussion
It appears that the energy contained in one pound of each type of wood is nearly identacal. the difference is that the Douglas Fir released its energy quicker then the same amount of Oak wood.

Summary Statement
Burning different types of wood in a steam locomitive to determine which wood produced the most energy

Help Received
The San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum loned me the use of their narrow gauge steam locomitive for this experment. My father supervised my use of this locmotive, and helped me acquire the materials for the experiment.