

Questions to Encourage Class Discussion on OPCW FIRES Film

Combustion Man

Diagnostics Researcher, from the University of Central Florida, Dr Subith Vasu, investigates the effect explosions have on chemical weapons munitions. This film tracks Dr Vasu and his research students, Batiku Korigh and Leigh Nash, as they research the effect of shock waves, and the high temperatures they generate, on chemical agent simulants in a specially constructed shock tube in their laboratory.

Questions

1. Why is it important to know if any bombs have been detonated near chemical weapons?
2. Could bombs be used to destroy chemical weapons?
3. How can you test whether chemicals are destroyed by a shock wave from an explosion? What do you require by way of proof?
4. What chemical process (es) do you think is / are involved when chemicals are exposed to high temperatures?
5. How can scientific research develop tools to help the military (and society at large) in a non- offensive way?
6. What is the connection between the space programme and the elimination of chemical weapons?
7. How do you methodically analyse combustion, which is a chain reaction?