Picture of the Week: Brewing high explosives

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High explosives are used at Los Alamos in a wide variety of ways, from creating the pressures and temperatures essential to the study of nuclear weapons performance, to inducing shock waves into materials to understand their fundamental properties. This photo shows one way that explosive charges are built. An explosive compound is heated just past its melting point and is poured from the kettle into the experimental apparatus. A few explosives melt at temperatures well below their ignition points and can be safely poured into containers or molds.

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