

The Reaction of Various Alkali Metals

0-6 seconds --Small samples of lithium, sodium and potassium are lowered simultaneously into 3 different beakers containing water AND POPPING NOISES ARE HEARD AS REACTIONS BEGIN.

12s---The potassium sample ignites immediately (you can see why these metals are stored in non-reactive oils) .

20s---The lithium and sodium samples react slower, fizzing and moving around on the surface of the water. The reactions of these alkali metals proceeds according to the group trend--metals lower in the alkali group are more reactive.

35s---The sodium ignites once enough hydrogen gas is produced.