POOF!
For more than 30 years, chemistry instructor Tim Hoyt has been performing “Wizard” shows to get students excited about chemistry and science. Here he’s burning magnesium inside a block of dry ice—not an easy trick considering that fire needs oxygen, and dry ice is solid carbon dioxide. Plus it’s -100 degrees Fahrenheit. Don’t try this at home, kids, but once the magnesium is ignited it burns like a miniature sun. “I place the top half of a block of dry ice on the bottom half, and the entire block of dry ice glows with a bright light,” says the occasional wizard, who signs his e-mails with an emoticon that looks like this: <8{=