WHAT A GAS

Bet you can extinguish a flame by opening a bag of potato chips!

THE SETUP
Check with an adult before you do this as it involves a candle. Light a candle. When the flame is well established open a bag of potato chips so that the gas inside gently floods the area around the candle. Don’t squeeze the bag. That just blows out the flame. With a silent shudder, the flame is out. Instantly!

INSIDER INFORMATION
That’s not air puffing up a bag of potato chips. It’s pure nitrogen. As you may know, nitrogen makes up almost eighty percent of the air, oxygen about twenty percent, and a few other gases in very small amounts. Oxygen supports burning and it also combines with the oil in potato chips to make them taste stale. So potato chips manufacturers preserve the shelf life of chips by packing them in pure nitrogen. The puffy bag also protects them against breakage.

By the way, when you blow out a flame, you also deprive it of oxygen by creating a partial vacuum according to the Bernoulli Effect.