When an earthquake occurs, the ball is shaken from the pedestal and the piston drops, closing the valve and shutting off the flow of gas to the house. Retrack the reset screw to reset the valve.

**Automatic Earthquake Gas Shut-off Valves**

if you live in earthquake prone regions and have gas service, you may be interested in investing in an earthquake gas shut-off valve. Although there are many designs, most use the ball method. Its concept is simple and a typical example is shown above. A metal ball on a pedestal opens a valve allowing gas to pass from the service (either a tank or a utility hook-up) to the house. When sufficient shaking occurs, the ball drops from the pedestal, closing the valve - shutting off the flow of gas.

Most valve manufacturers have designed the valve of durable materials and to close only after a sufficient amount of shaking has occurred. They will not close when a large truck passes by or other incidental motion. The California State Architects Office has set 0.30 g horizontal as a minimum amount of shaking that may cause damage to gas service lines. The California State Architects Office has reviewed several automatic gas shut-off valves and has a comprehensive report available upon request that includes standards, testing results, and manufacturers address. The phone number is 916-445-2163.

Some insurance companies have provided deductions if earthquake shut-off valves are installed. With the change in earthquake insurance policies since the Northridge earthquake, check with your local insurance representative.

Prices for these products start at about $200. For additional information regarding automatic earthquake shut-off valves, contact your local earthquake supply outlet store.