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## **New valve standard for quake protection**

The dangers of gas fire or explosion following a major earthquake could be reduced due to a new standard for valves put in place recently by the Canadian Gas Association.

In use for some time in the U.S. and Japan, the valve was certified for use by the CGA after more than a year of lobbying by the Westcoast Seismic Protection Co of Vancouver.

John O'Sullivan of West Coast said the seismic actu-

ated automatic gas valve is designed to shut down gas supply to a building following an earthquake severe enough to damage the gas supply.

"Although some people may consider it an easy task to shut off their gas, what happens during the first few critical minutes following an earthquake, possibly at 2 a.m., without a wrench in site or anyone available to use it?" Sullivan said.

The new device is currently being installed in loca-

tions in B.C., following the U.S. and Japanese lead where automatic shut-off valves are commonly used in schools, hospitals, commercial and residential buildings.

The valve, which is available in most sizes and high and low pressure, can also be modified for use in industrial facilities like pulp mills and chemical plants for corrosive fluid control.

The valve is CGA Standard #CR90-002.