

## news

John O'Sullivan, president of QuakeKoso Canada Inc., said the single biggest hazard posed by a large earthquake comes from broken gas lines and the ensuing fires. His device, which costs about \$200, automatically shuts off gas to a house, condo, townhouse or any building in the event of an earthquake that's severe enough to lead to rupture gas lines.

Martin van den Hemel  
photo



# Fire is major hazard after earthquake

*Device automatically shuts off gas in the event of a major earthquake*

**by Martin van den Hemel**

*Staff Reporter*

Fires following a major earthquake in B.C. could cause more than \$500 million in damage to property, according to an October 2013 report by the Insurance Bureau of Canada.

For the last 25 years, John O'Sullivan, president of QuakeKoso Canada, has been selling a device that automatically shuts off gas service to a structure—houses, schools, hospitals and public buildings—in the event of an earthquake of sufficient magnitude that it could rupture gas lines.

The device, which costs about \$200, would provide peace of mind to people who might otherwise have to scramble to find a wrench and then manually turn off their gas service—and hope that the valve isn't jammed—following an earthquake.

O'Sullivan's device can only be re-opened manually, when a gas technician, for example, comes to a home to ensure no gas lines have ruptured as a result of an earthquake.

Thursday was ShakeOut BC Day, when millions of people around the world—including nearly 750,000 BC participants—practiced how to drop, cover and hold-on in the event of an earthquake.

For more information about the earthquake-actuated automatic gas shutoff valve, visit [quakekoso.com](http://quakekoso.com).