California Valves are earthquake sensitive gas shut-off valves. They are intended to close in the event of an earthquake to prevent gas flow into a structure where earthquake damage may have occurred. The valve reduces the potential for fire or explosion due to the release of natural gas into a structure where gas lines, gas fixtures, or gas appliances.

California Valves do not use any source of internal or external electrical power. They are designed to remain closed until manually reset. The valves are intended to be mounted in the gas line upstream or downstream of the gas-line pressure regulator and gas meter outside the structure. These valves do not replace the manual upstream shut-off valves provided in the gas service line.

The valve consists of a swing check valve arrangement with an acceleration-sensitive triggering mechanism. The trip mechanism consists of a steel ball resting on a tapered cup-shaped support. The horizontal motion of an earthquake causes the ball to move from the center of the support. This allows the balls mass to act upon the movable pipe of the trip mechanism, activating the valve and initiating closure. Springs assist the valve- flapper to close and gas pressure assists in holding the valve disc in the closed position. The trip mechanism is factory set and sealed. A sight glass is provided so that the Open or Closed indicator can be seen, and the trip mechanism status of the valve can be easily determined.

The residential California seismic gas shut-off valves range in size from ¾" to 1 ½", low- or high- pressure. These valves are available in three different configurations: Horizontal gas flow (H),Vertical Bottom-In gas flow (VB), and Vertical Top-In gas flow (VT).