Taylor Fluid Viscous Dampers protect against earthquake damage

It looks a lot like the shock absorber from your car. But it's huge. For, instead of dampening the relatively minor shocks of a bad road, it damps forces from 10,000 lbs. to 2,000,000 lbs., the kind of damaging motion and energy generated by an earthquake.

The manufacturer, Taylor Devices, Inc., North Tonawanda, New York, says the devices are based on 40 years of use by the armed forces protecting installations against shock, blast and weapons explosion—to levels far beyond any earthquake.

Simple to install on new or existing structures, the dampers require no maintenance, service, or periodic inspection says Taylor.

Each damper is divided into three chambers. Shock forces the piston to compress viscous fluid in the central chamber, which then forces fluid into the first chamber (see illustration above), which absorbs and equalizes the force of the shock. Then, in milliseconds, fluid is forced into the third chamber to prevent the piston from bouncing back and forth as the shock force is stabilized.

The system is utilized not only to protect bridges, but towers and elevated highways from seismic shock and high winds.

For information call 716-694-0800.

June-July 1998; bridge builder
Taylor Devices' Fluid Viscous Dampers Are Easy To Install, Cost-Effective Seismic Protection That Won't Compromise Architectural Freedom

Stand firm: Don't compromise for less than the seismic protection of Taylor Fluid Viscous Dampers. As a world leader in the science of shock isolation, we are the team you want between your structure and the undeniable forces of nature. Others agree. Taylor Fluid Viscous Dampers are currently providing earthquake and wind protection on more than 30 buildings and bridges. From the historic Los Angeles City Hall, to the new San Francisco Civic Center Complex, owners, architects, engineers, and contractors trust the proven technology of Taylor Devices' Fluid Viscous Dampers.