

ASBESTOS GEEK PIC OF THE WEEK

April 24, 2024



A weekly post featuring pictures of asbestos-related artifacts from the private collection of Andy Rowland, CIH – Principal at IMPRIMIS Forensic Health & Safety.

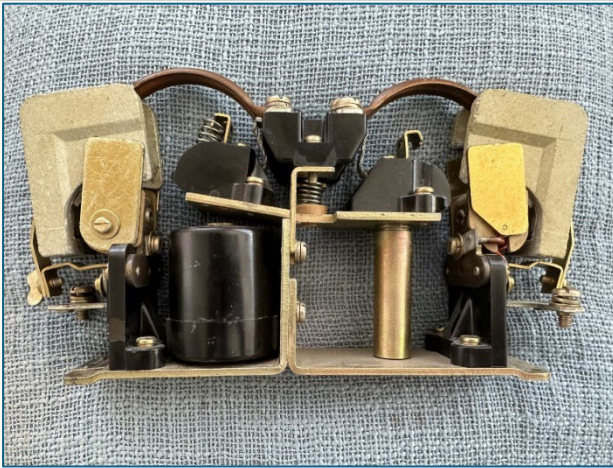


Photo #1 – Circuit Breaker with A-C Arc Chutes

This week's picture features a vintage industrial circuit breaker with the traditional asbestos-containing **Arc Chutes** (See Photo #1). I am not sure of the age on this item, but it is probably older than me. It came out of the DOE facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and it looked like it had been there since the days of the Manhattan Project. A quick search revealed multiple patents for similar products dating to the pre-war period.

Arc chutes (aka *arc shields*) are used within circuit breakers to insulate and protect circuits by preventing a high voltage spark from jumping from one contact to another. As you would expect these components are made primarily of Portland Cement and Chrysotile Asbestos. This is the recipe for what we generically call **Transite**. Rest assured that you will see many transite products in the weeks and months to come.

If you think back to those first AHERA Asbestos Inspector course offering in the spring of 1988, I doubt that any of the instructors mentioned any sort of asbestos products like these. The focus then was upon TSI, Fireproofing, and 9" x 9" vinyl asbestos tile. There has been a lot of water under the bridge, and we have learned a great deal since then.



Photo #2 – Close up of Arc Chute

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Photo #3



Photo #4

What **Transite** products have you seen in your travels?

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