Chassis Technical Bulletin CTB 012, 15 July 2009

Title: Spring Brake Disarming and Disposal

When spring brake maxi-chambers are to be disposed, **ALL** maxi-chambers must be safely disarmed prior to their disposal to prevent injury from accidental release of the high energy spring (as much as 2700 lbs) within their parking brake chamber. **NEVER** attempt to service or dissemble the spring chamber on any spring brake actuator. The large spring in the spring chamber has **EXTREME** force which could cause serious bodily injury or death if it were suddenly released due to inadvertent removal of the clamp.

Anytime a maxi-chamber is to be removed from the axle for disposal (or otherwise), it must FIRST be enclosed in a safety chamber, while on the axle, BEFORE performing any other work. AFTER installation of the safety chamber around the maxi-chamber, the spring brake can then have its power spring caged, before its removal from the chassis axle.

Once the maxi-chamber chamber within its safety cage has been removed from the chassis for disposal, it needs to be disarmed while keeping the maxi-chamber in its safety chamber:

- Guide an acetylene torch through one of access ports in the safety chamber, and cut a hole through the head housing the power spring.
- Cut a 2 ½ inch hole through the housing and then cut the spring.
- Repeat this procedure on the opposite side of the chamber.
- Use a screw driver to check and make sure that the coils are loose in the chamber. Do NOT check w/ fingers!!!

ONCE THE COILS ARE LOOSE, the brake maxi-chamber has been rendered harmless and can then be removed from the safety cage, and discarded.

**WARNING:** Great care must be used whenever handling maxi-chamber, particularly when there is evidence of deterioration in the housing.

**Note:** **WAGNER TYPE SPRING BRAKE MAXI CHAMBERS are a special case**, and must be disarmed upon entry to any depot. A history of internal corrosion makes this type of maxi-chamber unpredictable and dangerous. All Wagner maxi-brake chambers must be disarmed immediately, per above procedures.
(Maxi brake safety chamber)
(Brake chamber locked inside safety chamber)
(Cut holes through brake chamber head housing and spring)