

J. H. FLETCHER & CO. Box 2187 – Huntington, WV 25722-2187 – 304/525-7811 – FAX 304/525-4025

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 104

**TO: ALL OWNERS, OPERATORS AND REBUILDERS OF
J.H. FLETCHER ROOF BOLTERS**

**FROM: RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
J.H. FLETCHER & CO.**

DATE: JUNE 2007

SUBJECT: PROPER USE OF BOOM TOOL TRAY

An accident involving the driller's tool tray and the tools placed in the tool tray on a Fletcher roof bolting machine has occurred. A roof bolter operator was struck in the neck by a roof bolt. The bolt was placed in a tool tray in such a way that the end of the bolt extended beyond the tool tray and became caught between the drilling mast and the bolter frame.

Information obtained indicates the accident apparently occurred because the bolt was improperly placed on the boom tool tray with the end extending off the tray and behind the drill mast. The operator activated the mast rotation/tilt lever without looking into the mast/drill area to confirm that there was no object in that pinch point. When the mast tilt function was activated to tilt the mast from vertical to horizontal for rib bolting, the roof bolt was caught between the mast tilt cylinder support structure and the mast, causing the bolt to fly out toward the opposite operator at a high rate of speed. The bolt struck the opposite operator in the neck, causing serious injury.

Fletcher is reminding its customers and roof bolting machine operators of the necessity to maintain a proper lookout and to ensure safe work practices are followed when tools, bolts and/or drill steels are placed in the boom tool tray on any roof bolting machine. **It is impossible to foresee all scenarios or situations in which an object or body part could fall into or be placed into a machine component that moves, the result of which could be catastrophic.**

SAFE WORK PRACTICE REMINDERS: To prevent injury from the hazards of misuse of a tool tray or from objects becoming entangled within the drill mechanism pinch points:

1. Retrain and regularly remind your employees of the obligation to visually inspect and correct any object that enters the drill mechanism/machine pinch point areas. Instruct them to:

- a. MAINTAIN A PROPER LOOKOUT. It is essential that each roof bolting machine operator visually inspect the tool tray and the area between the tool tray and the drilling mechanism **before activating any drill station lever**. This is an ongoing visual inspection that must occur throughout the shift. Items placed into a tool tray can slip or move unexpectedly. Remind each operator never to assume that the pinch point area is free from a foreign object.
- b. WATCH FOR MOVING/MOVED ITEMS. Check to ensure that any object placed in the tool tray is in the same location where it was placed and not extending into the pinch point. Never assume that an object once placed in the tool tray has not moved.
- c. DO NOT OVERSTACK THE TOOL TRAY: If the mine permits bolts, tools and steels to be placed in the tool tray, put only the least number of bolts/steels/tools in the boom tool tray necessary for drilling to complete a row of bolts. Overstacking of the drill tray can cause serious injury not only from the potential that an object will extend into the pinch point and become fouled with the drilling mechanism, but also, overstacking increases the risk of objects falling over and into the operator. Falling objects can directly cause injury or can distract an operator's attention from the drilling task and increase the risk of serious injury or death.
- d. DO NOT USE TOOL TRAY FOR ITEMS THAT DO NOT FIT INSIDE IT. If the mine plan calls for use of bolts that are longer than the actual tool tray, it is essential that those bolts be stored only on the chassis of the bolter and not the tool tray. The tool tray is not intended to be a storage area for anything that will not fit within the specific dimensions (height, length, width) of the tool tray as originally designed by Fletcher.
- e. DO NOT ADD EXTENSIONS, LIPS OR DEVICES TO THE TOOL TRAY in order to increase the height of the rim. Such additions are not appropriate and only invite overstacking or placing objects in the area that should not be there (such as bolts that are longer than the tray).
- f. CHECK AND SECURE all accessories in the boom tool tray before tramming or positioning the machine.
- g. NEVER PLACE ANY OBJECT ON, IN OR NEAR A MOVING COMPONENT.
- h. KNOW WHERE YOUR TOOLS AND SUPPLIES ARE AND KEEP THEM SECURE: Make sure all tools and supplies are secured on the bolter chassis before you tram or position the machine.

- i. REGULARLY REMIND AND WARN OPERATORS that moving machine components can expose anyone to unsafe conditions and that failure to keep all tools and supplies from moving components could result in those tools or supplies becoming entangled into a pinch point area, exposing the operators to serious injury or death.
2. Fletcher has made available a free warning tag (P/N: 359428) for all Fletcher products that have boom tool trays (one tag per tray). Secure the tag on the tool trays of each roof drill you own (for installation location, see attached drawing). Call Fletcher's service department, or one of our authorized distributors to order the new warning tag for your machine(s). When ordering, provide the serial number and model of Fletcher equipment you will be installing the tag on. Fletcher will then send you the correct quantity of tags for installation on your machine(s).
3. Display the enclosed posters and this safety notice where all operators can view it.
4. When you have installed the tag(s) on your machine(s), complete the enclosed form and return it to Fletcher's Risk Management Department.
5. Provide a copy of this Information Bulletin to ALL roof bolting machine operators, helpers, maintenance personnel and any other person that may work with or in the area of a roof bolting machine. Post a copy of this Information Bulletin in the location at your mine where employees can readily review it.
6. Maintain a copy of this Information Bulletin, as well as ALL Information Bulletins that Fletcher has provided to you, in the Mine Safety Department. If you need extra copies of this or any other Fletcher Information Bulletin, notify Fletcher's Risk Management Department (information below).
7. If you no longer own or operate a machine that might be affected by this notification, please complete the Inactive Disposition form included with this bulletin.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this bulletin or require assistance to evaluate your particular machine, please contact Fletcher's Service Department or your local Fletcher field representative.

INACTIVE EQUIPMENT DISPOSITION

SOLD OR TRANSFERRED EQUIPMENT:

MODEL: _____ OWNER: _____
SERIAL NO: _____ ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NO: _____ TRANSACTION DATE: _____

MODEL: _____ OWNER: _____
SERIAL NO: _____ ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NO: _____ TRANSACTION DATE: _____

EQUIPMENT THAT IS PERMANENTLY OUT-OF-SERVICE:

MODEL: _____ MODEL: _____
SERIAL NO: _____ SERIAL NO: _____

MODEL: _____ MODEL: _____
SERIAL NO: _____ SERIAL NO: _____

MODEL: _____ MODEL: _____
SERIAL NO: _____ SERIAL NO: _____

COMMENT:

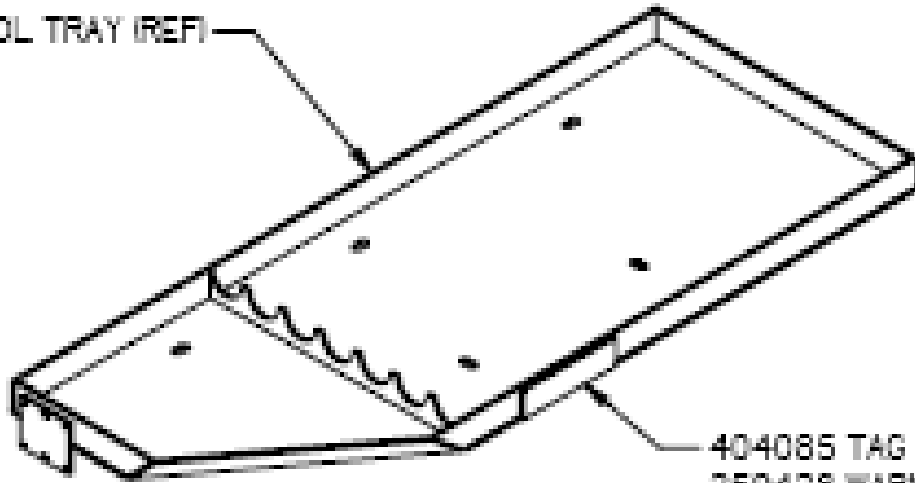
Date: _____

Authorized Representative

Please return to: J. H. FLETCHER & CO.
ATTN: RISK MANAGEMENT DEPT.
402 HIGH STREET
HUNTINGTON WV 25705

EXAMPLE OF UTILITY TOOL TRAY

VALVE TOOL TRAY (REF)



40-4085 TAG MOUNT
359428 WARNING TAG





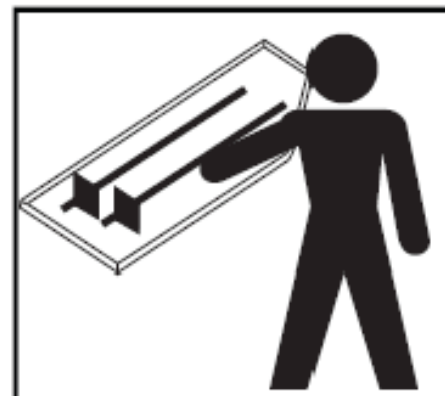
DANGER

TOOL TRAY HAZARD



SUPPLIES CAUGHT IN
MOVING MACHINERY CAN
SWING AND CRUSH

OPERATOR MUST MAINTAIN
ALL SUPPLIES, TOOLS AND
DRILL STEELS COMPLETELY
INSIDE THE TOOL TRAY



FAILURE TO DO SO
WILL CAUSE
SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH

FLETCHER®

PART NO. 135136