

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

# IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

## INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 93

**TO: ALL OWNERS, OPERATORS AND REBUILDERS OF J.H. FLETCHER & CO. EQUIPMENT**

**FROM: J.H. FLETCHER & CO.**

**DATE: JUNE 2003**

**SUBJECT: FATAL ACCIDENT ALERT AND SAFETY REMINDERS REGARDING PROPER PROCEDURE FOR BLOCKING MOVING PARTS BEFORE PERFORMING MAINTENANCE.**

On April 4, 2003 a fatal accident occurred at a South African mine. At this time, the accident investigation is incomplete.

The preliminary information obtained by J.H. Fletcher & Co. ("Fletcher") indicates that a maintenance man was working on a leaking load-holding cartridge on the boom swing cylinder of an HDDR. The victim removed or disabled the load-holding cartridge, while standing between the boom and frame. His action released the boom and allowed the boom to swing in and crush him. The boom was not blocked before the maintenance man performed this task.

Fletcher reminds all purchasers, operators and users of its equipment of its previously published warnings about the open and obvious crushing hazard that is possible if an operator or maintenance personnel does not adequately block moving parts and lock-out power before making repairs to their equipment.

In the April 4, 2003 accident, the operator was performing maintenance on an HDDR roof drill. **Any mechanical component that rotates, swings, raises, lowers, extends, retracts or pivots has the potential to store energy.** If maintenance is performed on machines, then specific procedures must be taken to prevent any release of hydraulic power, electric energy or potential release of a component from gravity, before performing this task. These procedures are found in the Service Manual for your machine.

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Subject: Blocking Out and Locking Out Hydraulic and Electric Components

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THEREFORE:

**PRIOR TO ANY MAINTENANCE BEING PERFORMED TO THE MACHINE, THE MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL MUST DE-ENERGIZE THE MACHINE AND ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO HYDRAULIC PRESSURE TRAPPED BY THE VALVE BANK OR VALVE CARTRIDGES. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL ARE PUBLISHED IN EACH MACHINE'S MAINTENANCE MANUAL. FAILURE TO PERFORM THIS TASK IN A SAFE MANNER, SUCH AS NOT BLOCKING MECHANICAL COMPONENTS OR REMOVING POWER, IS AN UNAUTHORIZED AND UNSAFE PRACTICE.**

In order to prevent this type of accident from occurring, Fletcher recommends that you immediately do the following:

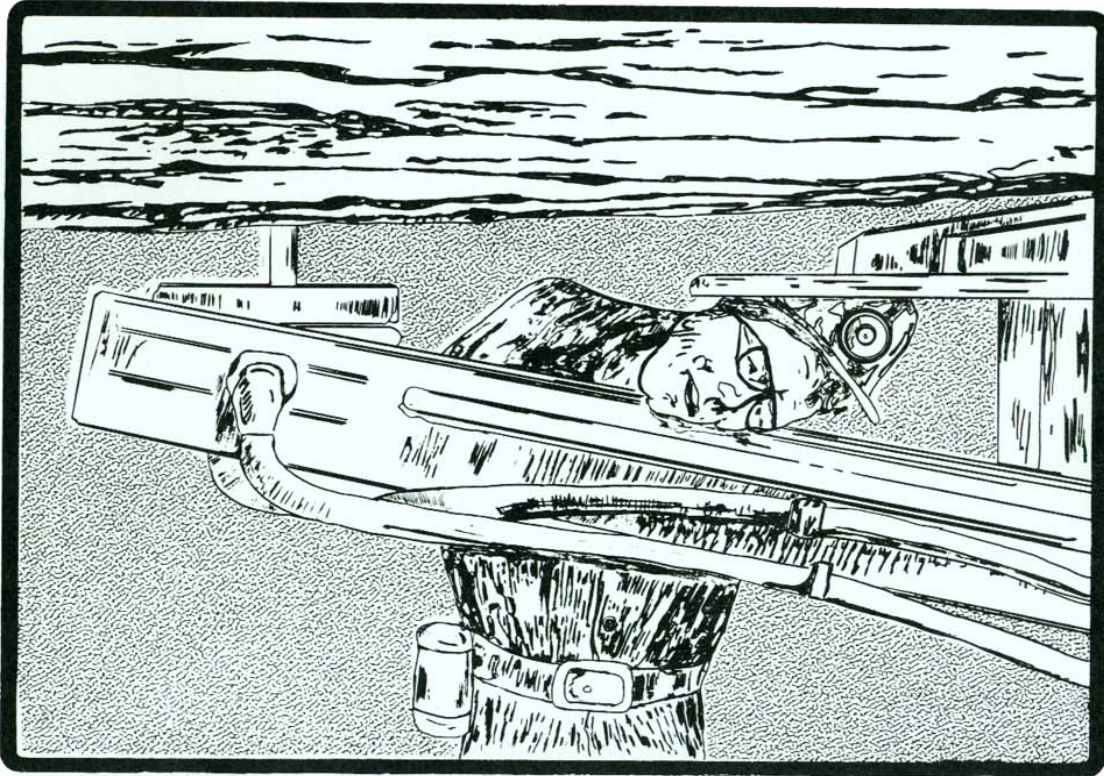
1. Call Fletcher service department direct and provide us with the serial number of each machine you have at that mine. J.H. Fletcher & Co. will provide a free kit (part number 359170), which consists of two warning tags (part number 359162) that you can install on your machine.
2. Post the enclosed warning posters and a copy of this bulletin in a location where all employees can see and read it. Additional posters are available free of charge by calling the Fletcher Risk Management Department.
3. Read the Operator's Manual and Service Manual for your machine, review your company's lock-out/tag-out policy and discuss and review proper blocking of moving parts and tag-out procedures with any employees who may have contact with your machine.

Fletcher has previously published these warnings and the substance of this Information Bulletin in various media formats. J.H. Fletcher & Co. recommends that you immediately share this bulletin with anyone who may operate or perform maintenance on Fletcher equipment, or anyone who may otherwise be in contact with your machine.

If you require assistance or have any questions regarding this Information Bulletin, or any other safety issues, please call the Risk Management Department at (304) 525-7811 or e-mail at [dcooper@jhletcher.com](mailto:dcooper@jhletcher.com).



# DANGER



## CRUSHING HAZARD!

**SERIOUS INJURY OR  
DEATH WILL OCCUR!**

**NEVER PLACE YOUR HEAD OR  
ANY BODY PART BETWEEN  
BOOM AND CANOPY.**