

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

# IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 98

TO:	<b>OWNERS OF FLETCHER 800 – TON MOBILE ROOF SUPPORTS WITH 200 – TON CYLINDERS</b>
FROM:	<b>J.H. FLETCHER &amp; CO.</b>
DATE:	<b>NOVEMBER 2005</b>
SUBJECT:	<b>ROCK BURST VALVE</b>

J.H. Fletcher & Co. is notifying all owners of Mobile Roof Support systems of a potential safety hazard in the replacement of rock burst valves on these units.

Rock burst valves are located on each MRS cylinder (see Attachment A). The purpose of this valve is to immediately release oil from the cylinder when the support plate assembly builds up too much pressure from the roof. When this occurs, the rock burst valve immediately reacts to the excessive load, preventing damage to the cylinder. However, if the load is too large, the rock burst valve may sustain permanent internal damage, allowing a continuous leak of oil to escape into the mine environment. When this damage has occurred, the rock burst valve must be replaced.

A hazard may arise when a maintenance employee starts to incorrectly remove a damaged valve for replacement. **THE OUTER CASING OF THE CYLINDER SHOULD NEVER BE REMOVED SEPARATELY FROM THE INTERNAL CYLINDER MECHANISM.** If the outer casing is removed separately from the internal mechanism the internal cylinder spring, as well as the outer casing, may spring out with great force. This may result in serious injury or death to anyone in the path of the projectile components.

In order to prevent such a hazard, Fletcher strongly recommends the following:

1. Remind maintenance personnel of this risk by mounting and maintaining the enclosed warning labels (part no. 359306) on all rock burst valves (see Attachment A).
2. Purchase the rock burst valve wrench (part no. 129406) directly from Fletcher or one of our authorized distributors. This wrench enables maintenance personnel to remove the rock burst valve as a unit. Maintenance personnel should be instructed to utilize this specifically designed wrench anytime a rock burst valve must be removed. (See Attachment A).

3. ENSURE THAT THE PROPER REPLACEMENT ROCK BURST VALVE HAS BEEN ORDERED FOR YOUR SPECIFIC MACHINE. NOT ALL ROCK BURST VALVES ARE THE SAME. THE PARTS BOOK CONTAINS THE SPECIFIC PART NUMBER FOR EACH ROCK BURST VALVE INCORPORATED INTO THE MACHINE PURCHASED FOR A GIVEN MINE. MAKE SURE THE REPLACEMENT ROCK BURST VALVE PART NUMBER MATCHES THE PART NUMBER IN THE PARTS BOOK.  
**REPLACEMENT WITH AN INCORRECT PART NUMBER CAN LEAD TO CYLINDER FAILURE AND CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.**
4. Ensure all maintenance personnel are properly instructed and trained in the correct method of any maintenance task, including the removal and replacement of the rock burst valve. This information is found in the maintenance manual that was shipped with the MRS machine.

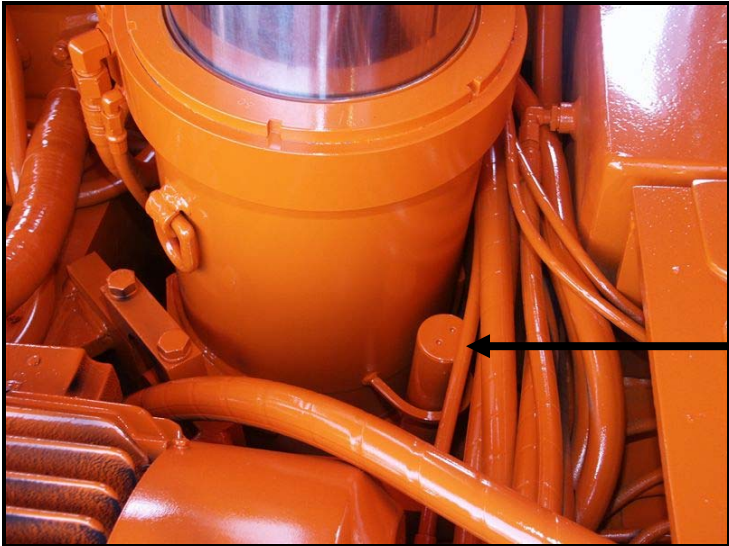
As a reminder, the maintenance removal instructions are:

1. Move Mobile Roof Support System away from the pillar line into a safe supported area before you begin to replace the rock burst valve;
2. Raise the Roof Support Plate Assembly to a comfortable height;
3. Properly block the roof support plate before performing any maintenance inside the machine (see your company representative for instructions on blocking, or contact a Fletcher service representative or engineer at 304/525-7811);
4. Lock out and tag out power to the MRS;
5. Remove all hydraulic pressure in cylinders before removing the valve;
6. Use the rock burst valve wrench to remove the valve (see Attachment A)
7. Before placing the new rock burst valve in the cylinder, clean the area thoroughly. Install the new valve and torque to 150 lb. ft. (203 Nm) using the new wrench;
8. Remove blocking material, lock out and tag out apparatus, and restart the machine;
9. To test the new valve, extend support plate assembly against the roof.  
If the new rock burst valve does not leak, the machine can be returned to service.

Fletcher encourages you to instruct and notify all maintenance personnel to read and follow this notice.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, contact John Reckard, at J.H. Fletcher & Co., 304/525-7811, ext. 258.

ATTACHMENT A



ROCK BURST VALVE ON MRS CYLINDER



ROCK BURST VALVE WRENCH



WRENCH ON ROCK BURST VALVE

\*PLACE WARNING TAG HERE

<b>DANGER</b>
<b>FLYING OBJECT HAZARD</b>
CONTENTS OF ROCK BURST VALVE ARE UNDER EXTREME PRESSURE.
IMPROPER REMOVAL OF ROCK BURST VALVE CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.
REVIEW J.H. FLETCHER & CO. INFORMATION BULLETIN 98, THE SERVICE MANUAL FOR YOUR MACHINE AND CONSULT WITH YOUR SUPERVISOR BEFORE REPLACING THIS VALVE.
J.H. FLETCHER & CO. PART NO. 359306