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### *Your E-Mail*

J.H. Fletcher & Co. appreciates you sending us E-mail and answering our web site survey. However, if you are sending in E-Mail requests, we ask that you provide us the following information: NAME, A FULL ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS. PLEASE ADDRESS YOUR E-MAIL TO: [dcooper@jhletcher.com](mailto:dcooper@jhletcher.com)

## Mobile Roof Support - Steps to Safety



### STEP ONE: THE MINING PLAN

The mining plan is developed by the mining company and submitted to Federal and State agencies for approval. This plan outlines the overall approach to pillar removal and the specific steps involved. Additionally, the plan may address appropriate locations of personnel during pillar removal, cable hanging and handling procedures, as well as machine set and operating pressures. If this information is not provided in the plan, you must obtain this information from the responsible person in your company.

Remember, however, that the mining plan only specifies the minimum requirements. Special conditions or circumstances may require application of additional roof support or other measures to continue operation safely. You must also be aware of what additional measures are necessary, and how to execute these additional measures.

### STEP TWO: OPERATOR TRAINING

Safe operation of an MRS System requires proper operator training. Never attempt to operate these machines without first receiving the required task training under the supervision of a qualified trainer.

Fletcher, in addition to on-site operator orientation, has available various materials (Example: Videos, Operator's Manuals, Posters) to assist in operator training. They can be obtained by contacting our Risk Management Department (304 525.7811).

Although Fletcher is anxious to assist in training – it remains the responsibility of the mine owner to provide mine specific Task Training.

### STEP THREE: UNDERSTAND HOW THE MACHINE SUPPORTS THE ROOF

The MRS System is an *active* roof support system – the operator must remain *actively involved* with the support system as long as it is supporting the roof. The operator must set the system against the roof at a specific pressure (set pressure). Thereafter, the operator must monitor the roof support pressure and make adjustments as required. If the machine settles into the floor, the support pressure will decrease. If additional roof loading occurs, the support pressure will increase. These changes in support pressure provide important information to a properly trained and experienced operator as to what actions need to be taken to continue mining safely.

To facilitate monitoring roof support pressures, large illuminated



*(Continued on page 2)*

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pressure gauges are provided on all units. Additionally, a *LOAD MONITORING SYSTEM* is available. This system consists of a pressure sensor, multicolored light tower, strobe light and an electronic controller. The light tower contains three lights; green, amber and red which illuminate when pre-selected pressure levels in the roof support cylinders are reached.



The pressure selected to set the MRS against the mine roof (set pressure)

will cause the green light to come on when achieved. When the pressure changes from one pre-set level to another, a strobe light flashes for five seconds, to call attention to the change in pressure. If the pressure reaches the maximum set value, the red light will be illuminated and the strobe will flash continuously.

We have recently updated the *MRS Operator's Manual* to provide additional safety information. To obtain a free copy of the updated manual, contact our Risk Management Department (304. 525. 7811).

# MinExpo 2008

Thank you to all who stopped by the J. H. Fletcher & Co. booth at this years MinExpo to talk and take a look at what we have to offer to the industry today and what we are working on for the future.

Be sure to check out the next issue of the Fletcher Product Newsletter for pictures and an article about this years Expo.



## Bulletin 108

J.H. Fletcher & Co. previously sent an important safety notice, Information Bulletin 105. The bulletin stated that Fletcher had received information that a problem may exist with the tram control valve that may cause a machine to continue traveling forward/reverse when the operator released the lever. At the time the bulletin was issued the origin and factors contributing to the occurrence of this problem were still under investigation.

This phenomenon may occur when tramping the machine. If the tram levers are released, one of the levers may not automatically return to center or neutral position. The machine may then continue to move or pivot without any intentional activation of a tram lever by the operator. If a sticking lever occurs, immediately release the tram enable pedal and hit the emergency stop switch located in the tram deck. Contact Fletcher immediately to receive a replacement valve.



The continued use of a machine with tram control levers that are sticking could result in serious injury or death to personnel.

Since this bulletin was issued, Fletcher has been notified that five incidents of this type have occurred. None of the incidents before or since the previous bulletin have resulted in injury. Fletcher's investigation and analysis concluded that this phenomenon is caused by an incorrect tolerance between the spool and valve bore. We request that you report every occurrence of this phenomenon so that appropriate remedial action can be taken. Our field personnel continue to inquire about the frequency that this phenomenon occurs.

As additional precautionary action, Fletcher has issued Bulletin #108. This bulletin specifically outlines what will be done. This is a very important bulletin. If you have not received a copy please call us to request a copy, then look for your machines on the list provided.

# AN ERGONOMIC ISSUE DRILL CONTROL LEVERS



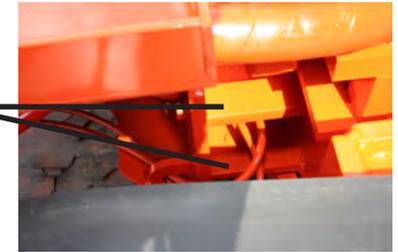
On RRII booms there are adjustment holes to move the driller valve control to a higher operating position. This adjustment places the control levers higher when the coal seam has increased in height. To adjust the valve tray there are blocks welded on the outer boom assembly that the valve mount tray is bolted onto. The bolts, which are of a specific size, strength and length, hold the valve mount tray on. The valve mount tray has a low and high bolting location on the plate. If the machine is placed in the high location, the tray can be raised approximately 5".

To perform this task, your maintenance personnel must properly block the tray before removing the bolts from the valve mount tray. Once the tray has been moved to the higher or lower location, the bolts must be reinstalled with the same lock washer and hex head cap screws as specified in the parts book. Torque the bolts to 125 lb.ft., to ensure they will not come loose.

J.H. Fletcher & Co. recommends that anytime this tray is moved, the machine must be restarted according to the operator's manual instructions to ensure all control levers are working properly. Fletcher recommends that these bolts be checked as part of the regular maintenance

schedule to ensure they do not come loose. If you have any problems during the reattachment of the product to your bolter, always contact your Fletcher service representative.

*Note: This procedure should only be done by qualified maintenance personnel*



Blocks welded to outer boom assembly

## ANNOUNCEMENT

J. H. Fletcher & Co. will soon be shipping it's first rotary drilling, dual head, low seam roof bolter to an Anthracite mine. In the past, the hardness of anthracite required rotary impact drilling which is noisy and expensive. Fletcher brought the customer in and demonstrated how efficiently a Fletcher bolter could drill using only rotary drilling. Fletcher technology and innovation providing safe, efficient and affordable options for the Anthracite industry.

## Questions from the Field

**Q.** Is it OK to install a standard light bulb in a light fixture on a Fletcher Roof Bolter?

**A.** No. The lighting system was developed to comply with 30CFR, Section 75.1719. Changing any component, including the light bulb, voids the approval.



**Q.** When should I expect the books for my machine to be delivered?

**A.** The operator's manual is shipped with the machine and should be located in the black document holder. Due to the unique nature of each machine, the Parts Books and service manuals are shipped 2 to 3 weeks after the machine and you should receive 4 of each.

# Employee News



J. H. Fletcher & Co. would like to congratulate our own Debby Hibbard on being one of the recipients of the Michael Prestera Award of Excellence, announced in February by Prestera Centers for Mental Health Services, Inc.

Debby is a family member of a person with an addiction. Her unwavering compassion for her loved one has driven Debby to

learn as much as she can about addiction, and in that process has come to find the addiction treatment system in WV has numerous shortcomings.

Putting effort behind her beliefs, Debby has been a tireless advocate for education regarding substance abuse/addiction, recovery, and improving treatment options in WV.

Debby has been a driving force in moving the dream of creating "The Healing Place of Huntington" into reality.

This facility will be dedicated solely to individuals needing substance abuse/addiction treatment and is being modeled after "The Healing Place" in Louisville KY, a very successful and affordable recovery center.

Debby joined J. H. Fletcher & Co. in 2006, working in inventory control.



J. H. Fletcher & Co.  
on the Web:

[www.jhfletcher.com](http://www.jhfletcher.com)

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Currently we are only sending the Fletcher Newsletter to a select readership. If you know of someone in your company who wishes to be placed on our mailing, please let us know. Below is a form for a free subscription to the newsletter. Just fill out the form and return it to J. H. Fletcher & Co., Risk Management, Box 2187, Huntington WV 25722-2187.

### FREE SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title \_\_\_\_\_  
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