

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

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 70

TO:	ALL OWNERS, OPERATORS, AND REBUILDERS OF FLETCHER DRILLS
FROM:	RISK MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT J. H. FLETCHER & CO.
DATE:	OCTOBER 15, 1997
SUBJ:	STICKING CONTROL VALVE LEVERS

J. H. Fletcher & Co. has been informed of two accidents that have occurred on RR11 roof bolters when the machine unintentionally trammed forward resulting in injuries to the operators.

The major contributing factor leading to these accidents was that one of the tram levers was partially stuck in the **ON** position when the machine's hydraulic systems were energized. The machine moved forward without any activation of a tram lever by the operator. These incidents were caused by a lever that was sticking and would not spring back to neutral as originally designed.

To prevent such an occurrence, re-instruct your roof bolter operators of the following steps they must take before operating the roof drills:

1. Re-instruct the operators on the pre-operation check list that is provided with each machine. These steps are outlined in the operator's and machine mounted operator's manuals that are located in each tram deck. At the start of shift, each operator must check all hydraulic levers at the tram deck, positioning, and drilling controls to ensure they are in the neutral position before energizing the hydraulic system. Spring return tram and control levers should return to neutral and should be on the same plane as other levers located in the same valve bank (see poster example).
2. Have your operators thoroughly inspect the entire valve bank assembly. Maintain the levers, handle mount, clevis pins, E-clips, handle separators (used on DDO/RR11 roof drills) as specified in the parts book.

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3. Check your oil levels and change your oil filters regularly to ensure clean and sufficient oil is being supplied to the hydraulic system.
4. If sticking levers are identified, the roof bolter should be locked out, the condition reported to the foreman, and repairs undertaken by maintenance.

Whenever a sticking lever is identified, the valve and/or its levers should be replaced or repaired. If repair or replacement of the valve does not eliminate the sticking lever problem, contact your Fletcher representative who will review the problem and provide technical assistance. The continued use of valves that are sticking could result in serious injury or death to personnel.

Fletcher considers this situation an immediate safety concern that requires prompt notification to all maintenance personnel, operators and potential operators of J. H. Fletcher & Co. machinery.

To help in your notification efforts, J. H. Fletcher & Co. encloses posters that can be placed throughout the mine to alert the operators how each should address the danger presented to them by sticking valves.

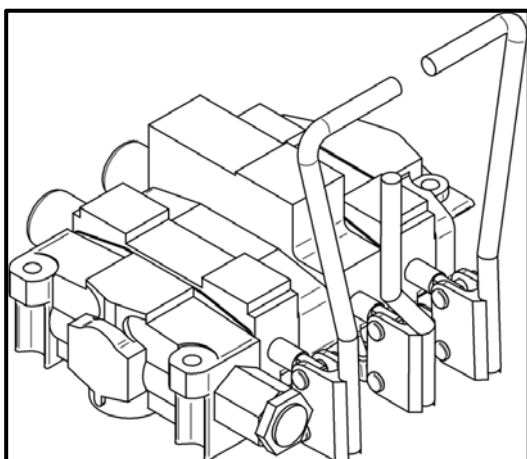
Instructing your operators on the proper method for inspecting their hydraulic levers and initiating corrective action if they encounter sticking levers will prevent this type of injury.

To obtain additional copies of the posters, operator's manuals, or machine mounted operator's manuals, call the Risk Management Department and we will ship them to you at no charge. Additional copies of this Information Bulletin will be provided upon request. Please provide each operator or potential operator with a copy of this Information Bulletin. If you need parts, once you have inspected the valve levers, call J. H. Fletcher & Co., Service Department, at (304) 525-7811.

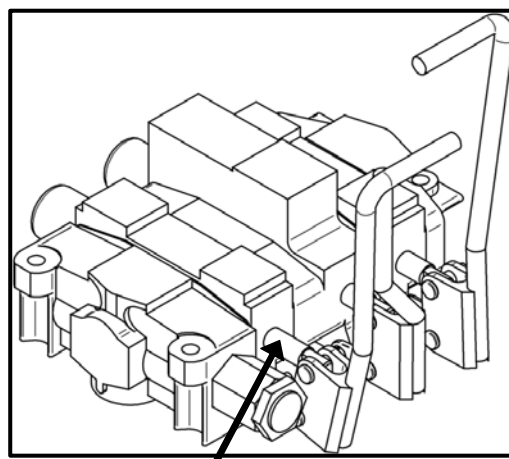


WARNING

STICKING TRAM LEVERS



CORRECT



INCORRECT

**COULD CAUSE SERIOUS
INJURY OR DEATH**

**IMMEDIATELY SHUT DOWN MACHINE
AND REPORT STICKING TRAM LEVERS
TO YOUR FOREMAN**