

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

# IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 139

**TO: COMPANIES WITH J.H. FLETCHER & CO. MACHINES**

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

**DATE: OCTOBER 2024**

**SUBJECT: DIESEL EXHAUST AND OTHER RESPIRATORY HAZARDS**

J.H. Fletcher & Co. would like to remind owners, employers, contractors, lessees, supervisors, maintenance personnel, operators, and bystanders of respiratory hazards caused by particulate matter (a.k.a. respirable dust) which may exist in the environment in which our machines are being operated. This particulate matter may be generated or worsened by the machine itself, or it may simply be a byproduct of the environment in which the machine is being operated. From underground mines, to shipyards, to steel mills, J.H. Fletcher & Co. machines are designed and built to operate in dirty, dusty environments. Dust floating in the air, invisible to the naked eye, in these environments could contain harmful particulate matter (ex. diesel exhaust, silica, coal dust, etc.) that when inhaled could result in cancer, silicosis, black lung disease, inflammation, other respiratory diseases, and other health conditions.

This bulletin is directed to operators, maintenance personnel and bystanders.

It is impossible for J.H. Fletcher & Co. to know all the types of particulate matter the operator(s) and bystanders of our machines may encounter while operating our machinery. While we know what our machines are designed to drill / scale (ex. coal, salt, or limestone) or what consumables our machines are designed to use (ex. resin, grit, ANFO, sand, diesel fuel, etc.), we are not knowledgeable in all the environmental hazards the operator(s) and bystanders may encounter while operating or being near our machines. J.H. Fletcher & Co. does not provide consumables, so it is up to the employer/owner/contractor/lessee to ensure the operator(s) and supervisors have access to the Safety Data Sheets and any manufacturer safety statements and instructions for those consumables.

Before purchasing a new J.H. Fletcher & Co. machine, it is imperative that the purchaser discuss with the salesperson any environmental hazards (whether they be respiratory hazards mentioned in this bulletin or other hazards like methane, rib rolls, extreme temperatures, etc.) that the operator may be exposed to. Discussing these hazards during

the initial purchasing of the machine helps ensure the salesperson discusses the appropriate machine with the purchaser and offers the appropriate engineering controls (ex. dust suppression systems, walk-thru machines, explosion proof electrical components, properly rated hydraulic components, filtered cabs, etc.) for their work environment. Engineering controls to reduce the operator(s) exposure to hazards is the first line of defense to best protect operators and bystanders.

It is important that each employer/owner/contractor/lessee generate a site-specific risk assessment for each model of machine and evaluate all the environmental hazards the operator(s) and bystanders may be exposed to. From the risk assessment, it can be determined what precautions, like PPE (ex. respirators) and on-the-job training, are required to lessen the operator(s) and bystanders' exposure to the environmental hazards. These risk assessments should be regularly reevaluated as the operators are exposed to new materials, as the environment changes, as science / technology advances to expose currently unknown health hazards, or as laws/regulations change.

If at any time while reevaluating the risk assessment it is determined that an engineering control would be the best method to reduce the operator(s) exposure to an environmental hazard or any other hazard, contact your local J.H. Fletcher & Co. Sales or Service Representative to discuss available options. Never modify a J.H. Fletcher & Co. machine without receiving written authorization from a J.H. Fletcher & Co. representative.

Because it is impossible for J.H. Fletcher and Co. to know all the environmental hazards in which our machines are being operated, J.H. Fletcher & Co. is warning all operators and bystanders of potential respirable hazards by installing a safety tag on all machines. This safety tag will be installed on our equipment across all industries to remind everyone of the obligation to address, prevent, and guard against harmful, invisible respiratory hazards. This tag is JHF part number 694475 (see Figure 1).

On our diesel equipment, J.H. Fletcher & Co. will begin installing a safety tag specifically warning the operator(s) and bystanders about diesel exhaust fumes. This tag will be installed on all our diesel equipment across all industries. This tag is JHF part number 694473 (see Figure 2).

For J.H. Fletcher & Co. equipment that is currently in operation, we are offering our customers these safety tags for free. To receive free tags for installation on our equipment, fill out the Safety Tag Request Form (Attachment 1) and e-mail Katie Heath at [kheath@jhfletcher.com](mailto:kheath@jhfletcher.com).

For proper sticker tag installation, we ask that you read and follow Technical Information Document #032: Installing Sticker Tags that can be found at [www.jhfletcher.com/maintenance](http://www.jhfletcher.com/maintenance).

In addition to providing sticker tags, we are providing Attachment 2: "OPERATOR'S MANUAL: ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS." Attachment 2 is a new section that will appear in future Operator's Manuals. For existing equipment in operation, we are requesting that our customers print Attachment 2 and insert this information into the Operator's Manuals for these machines. If your machine does not have a diesel engine, the "Diesel Exhaust Fumes" section does not need to be inserted in the manual.

Please post or provide this Information Bulletin to those affected by it. For this Information Bulletin and others, please visit [www.jhfletcher.com/bulletins](http://www.jhfletcher.com/bulletins).

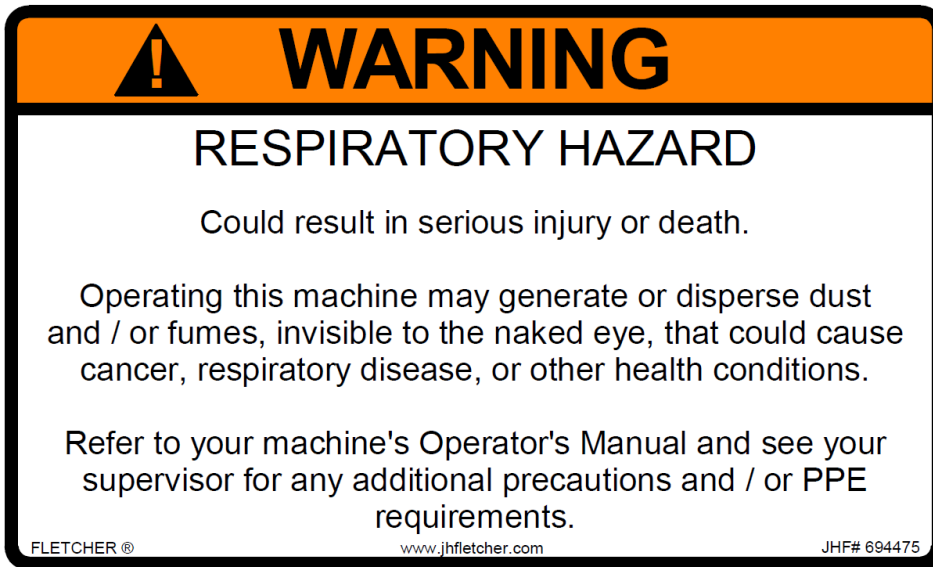


FIGURE 1: JHF# 694475 Safety Tag: Respiratory Hazard

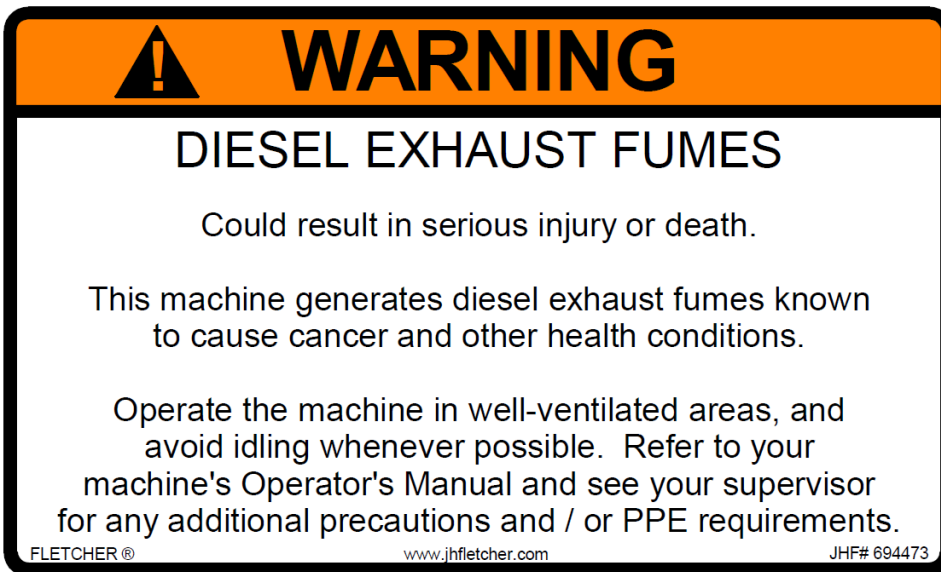


FIGURE 2: JHF# 694473 Safety Tag: Diesel Exhaust Fumes

**ATTACHMENT 1: SAFETY TAG REQUEST FORM**

NAME (PERSON TO RECEIVE TAGS):

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ADDRESS (PERSON TO RECEIVE TAGS):

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E-MAIL ADDRESS (PERSON TO RECEIVE TAGS):

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COMPANY'S NAME:

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FACILITY / MINE'S NAME:

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SAFETY MANAGER'S NAME:

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SAFETY MANAGER'S E-MAIL ADDRESS:

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**SAFETY TAGS BEING REQUESTED (PLACE CHECK NEXT TO TAGS REQUESTED):**

\_\_\_ JHF# 694475 RESPIRATORY HAZARD TAG

\_\_\_ JHF# 694473 RESPIRATORY HAZARD TAG

**LIST OF MACHINE SERIAL NUMBERS FOR SAFETY TAG INSTALLATION  
(see Machine Tag or Certification Tags):**

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

6) \_\_\_\_\_

7) \_\_\_\_\_

8) \_\_\_\_\_

9) \_\_\_\_\_

10) \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACHMENT 2: "OPERATOR'S MANUAL: ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS"**

# ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

J.H. Fletcher & Co. machines are operated in locations that have environmental hazards. Some environmental hazards may be generated or worsened by using our equipment, or the machines may simply be operating in an area in which environmental hazards exist.

Environmental hazards could be respirable hazards from coal dust, silica dust, methane, diesel exhaust fumes, etc. in underground mines; to grit dust, paint dust, diesel exhaust fumes, etc. at shipyards, to sand dust, diesel exhaust fumes, etc. at steel mills. Environmental hazards could also include things like burn hazards at steel mills because of the high temperatures associated with manufacturing steel to explosive hazards due to methane or explosive materials when working underground.

It is imperative that the employer/owner/contractor/lessee generate a site specific risk assessment for the machine and evaluate all the environmental hazards the operator may be exposed to. From the risk assessment, it can be determined what precautions, like PPE, the operator should utilize when operating the machine. It is important that the risk assessment be regularly reevaluated as operators are exposed to new materials, as science / technology determine causes for various health hazards, or as laws/regulations change.

J.H. Fletcher & Co. does not provide consumables (ex. diesel fuel, hydraulic oil, grease, resin, grit, ANFO, sand, etc.), so it is up to the employer/owner/contractor/lessee to ensure the operator(s) and supervisors have access to Safety Data Sheets and any manufacturer provided safety statements and instructions for those consumables. The risk assessment should take into consideration any consumables the operator comes into contact with that may create a hazard (such as respiratory hazards, chemical hazards, burn hazards, skin irritation, etc.).

It is impossible for J.H. Fletcher & Co. to predict all the possible hazards in the environments in which our machines are operating. We attempt to cover in this manual any hazards that are directly associated with our equipment, but we do not know every type of respirable dust or chemicals an operator may come into contact with during the course of a working shift. Before operating our machines, contact your supervisor, employer, etc. to determine what hazards you may come into contact with while performing your job. Ask if there are any recommendations for how to avoid or lessen hazards, including what PPE is recommended, and when and where it must be worn.

In this section of the manual, we will attempt to describe some of the known hazards that operators may come in contact with while operating our equipment, and provide safety guidelines / best practices to help lessen exposure to the hazards.



|   |   |
|---|---|
| Warn bystanders in the area when you are about to start the machine, and ensure they are standing a safe distance away from the machine before operating.   | ✓ |
| Warn bystanders in the area that the machine emits diesel exhaust fumes and to take the appropriate precautions and wear the appropriate PPE.   | ✓ |
| If machine cannot be operated in a well-ventilated area, then the operator, and any bystanders in the area, should wear a properly fitted NIOSH respirator when the machine is running.   | ✓ |
| When wearing a respirator, it must be a properly fitted, NIOSH approved respirator in accordance with state and federal regulations.  | ✓ |
| If machine is equipped with a fully enclosed cab with HEPA air filter, the operator may remove the respirator when in the cab with the door shut and air filtration system running. Air filtration system must be properly maintained at all times. | ✓ |
| Wash hands and face thoroughly as soon as possible after being exposed to diesel exhaust fumes.   | ✓ |
| Do not eat, drink, or use tobacco products when diesel exhaust fumes are present (when you are located near diesel machines that are powered on).   | ✓ |
| Always properly maintain your machine's diesel system (diesel engine, exhaust system, etc.). Regularly inspect the system to ensure it is working properly. When replacing parts, use only OEM parts.   | ✓ |
| Never operate the machine if the diesel system is not functioning properly. Report any issues to your supervisor and maintenance personnel.   | ✓ |
| Be sure to follow all procedures found in your machine's Operator's Manual, your machine's Service Manual, and the diesel engine manufacturer's manuals for proper operation and routine maintenance.   | ✓ |

## Diesel Exhaust Fumes in the Working Area

If you are operating a J.H. Fletcher & Co. machine without a diesel engine, but you are exposed to diesel exhaust generated by machines operating nearby, take the following precautions:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Consult with supervisor to determine what PPE is required when operating this machine.  | ✓ |
| If machines are not operated in a well-ventilated area, then the operator, and any bystanders in the area, should wear a properly fitted NIOSH respirator when nearby machines with diesel engines are running.                                     | ✓ |
| When wearing a respirator, it must be a properly fitted, NIOSH approved respirator in accordance with state and federal regulations.  | ✓ |
| If machine is equipped with a fully enclosed cab with HEPA air filter, the operator may remove the respirator when in the cab with the door shut and air filtration system running. Air filtration system must be properly maintained at all times. | ✓ |
| Wash hands and face thoroughly as soon as possible after being exposed to diesel exhaust fumes.   | ✓ |
| Do not eat, drink, or use tobacco products when diesel exhaust fumes are present (when you are located near diesel machines that are powered on).   | ✓ |



## RESPIRABLE DUST

From underground mines, to shipyards, to steel mills, J.H. Fletcher & Co. machines are designed and built to operate in dirty, dusty environments. Dust floating in the air, invisible to the naked eye, in these environments could contain harmful particulate matter (ex. silica, coal dust, etc.) that when inhaled over time could result in silicosis, black lung disease, cancer, other respiratory diseases, inflammation, and other health conditions. Some J.H. Fletcher & Co. machines are responsible for generating dust (bolters, scalers, grit blasters, sand spreaders, etc.) while others may simply be operating in dusty environments (MRS's, ladle access devices, and prime movers).

It is impossible for J.H. Fletcher & Co. to know all the types of particulate matter the operator(s) of our machines may come into contact with while operating our machinery because other than knowing what our machines are designed to mine (coal, salt, limestone, etc.) or knowing what our machines were designed to use (resin, grit, ANFO, sand, etc.), we are not knowledgeable in all the environmental hazards the operator may come in contact with while operating our machines. J.H. Fletcher & Co. does not provide consumables (resin, grit, ANFO, sand, etc.), so it is up to the employer/owner/contractor/lessee to ensure the operator(s) and supervisors have access to Safety Data Sheets and any manufacturer provided safety statements and instructions for those consumables.



### WARNING

#### RESPIRABLE DUST

COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

DUST IN THE ATMOSPHERE COULD CONTAIN HARMFUL PARTICULATES, SUCH AS SILICA, COAL DUST, OR OTHER HARMFUL MATERIALS, THAT COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS OR PERMANENT RESPIRATORY DISEASES (SILICOSIS OR BLACK LUNG) OR OTHER HEALTH HAZARDS SUCH AS CANCER, LUNG DISEASE, BIRTH DEFECTS, OTHER REPRODUCTIVE HARM, INFLAMMATION, ETC.



### WARNING

#### RESPIRATORY HAZARD

Could result in serious injury or death.

Operating this machine may generate or disperse dust and / or fumes, invisible to the naked eye, that could cause cancer, respiratory disease, or other health conditions.

Refer to your machine's Operator's Manual and see your supervisor for any additional precautions and / or PPE requirements.

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

JHF# 694475

## NOTICE

THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MACHINE, OPERATORS, AND BYSTANDERS (EMPLOYER/OWNER/ CONTRACTOR/LESSEE) MUST ENSURE A RISK ASSESSMENT IS GENERATED FOR THE MACHINE AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH IT IS OPERATING. THE RISK ASSESSMENT SHOULD EVALUATE ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS LIKE DIESEL EXHAUST FUMES, RESPIRABLE DUST, METHANE, ETC., AND DEFINE WHAT RISK REDUCTION MEASURES, LIKE PPE OR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING, MUST BE UTILIZED FOR RISK REDUCTION.

To decrease your exposure to harmful particulate matter, follow the guidelines outlined below.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Whenever possible, operate the machine in a well-ventilated area.   | ✓ |
| Take regular air samples as required by the regulatory body for the area in which your machine is being operated (MSHA or OSHA if machine is in the United States) or by your employer. Ensure air samples meet the required air standards.   | ✓ |
| Consult with supervisor to determine what PPE is required when operating this machine.  | ✓ |
| Warn bystanders in the area when you are about to start the machine, and ensure they are standing a safe distance away from the machine before operating.   | ✓ |
| Warn bystanders in the area that the machine may generate harmful particulate matter and to take the appropriate precautions (such as PPE).   | ✓ |
| If the risk assessment dictates that a respirator is required, then the operator, and any bystanders in the area, should wear a properly fitted NIOSH respirator.   | ✓ |
| When wearing a respirator, it must be a properly fitted, NIOSH approved respirator in accordance with state and federal regulations.  | ✓ |
| If machine is equipped with a fully enclosed cab with HEPA air filter, the operator may remove the respirator when in the cab with the door shut and air filtration system running. Air filtration system must be properly maintained at all times.   | ✓ |
| Wash hands and face thoroughly as soon as possible after operating the machine.   | ✓ |
| Do not eat, drink, or use tobacco products where harmful particulate matter may be present. J.H. Fletcher & Co. realizes that harmful particulate matter may be present at all times in your work environment, so it may not be practical to follow this guideline at all times. At a minimum, do not eat, drink, or use tobacco products while running the machine and actively generating dust with the machine.  | ✓ |
| If machine is equipped with any sort of dust suppression system, such as the dry dust suppression system on bolters, the wet drilling system on bolters, or the recycler (collection unit) attached to grit blasters, always use these systems when operating the equipment to lessen your exposure to harmful particulate matter. Some systems are on all the time, and others must be manually turned on. Before operating your machine, know how the dust suppression system works on your piece of equipment. | ✓ |
| Always properly maintain your machine's dust suppression system (if equipped). Regularly inspect the system to ensure it is working properly. When replacing parts, use only OEM parts.   | ✓ |
| If your machine is equipped with a dust suppression system, never operate the machine if the system is not functioning properly. Report any issues to your supervisor and maintenance personnel.  | ✓ |
| Be sure to follow all procedures found in your machine's Operator's Manual and Service Manual for proper operation and routine maintenance.   | ✓ |