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## POWDER LOADER ROCK DEFLECTOR PLATE

### Is a Rock Deflector Plate required on Fletcher Powder Loaders?

In previous years, it was J.H. Fletcher & Co.'s policy to install a Rock Deflector Plate over the platform on all Powder Loaders that we manufactured. Starting in 2024, the Rock Deflector Plate is now optional on Fletcher Powder Loaders. It has come to our attention that operators at some mines require access to the roof or need increased visibility, and because of these needs, we have decided to make our Rock Deflector Plate optional. We recommend that each mine perform their own Risk Assessment, and if the Powder Loader operator will be operating under bad top, then we recommend purchasing the Roof Deflector Plate whenever a new Powder Loader is purchased or maintaining the Rock Deflector Plate that was installed with machines already purchased. If, however, the mine determines, through a Risk Assessment, that the Rock Deflector Plate is not required, then the mine has the option to purchase a Powder Loader without the Rock Deflector Plate, or if the mine already owns a Fletcher Powder Loader, then the Rock Deflector Plate may be removed.

### If I remove the Rock Deflector Plate from my Fletcher Powder Loader, are there any new hazards I should be aware of?

There are a couple of hazards that exist if the Rock Deflector Plate is removed from the Fletcher Powder Loader. The first hazard is the operator is no longer protected from small rocks or debris falling from the roof. To warn the operator about this hazard, we recommend you purchase and install inside the basket JHF# 677945 safety tag (See Figure 1). A second hazard exist where the operator could get crushed between the roof and the railing due to inadvertent actuation of the control handles. To warn the operator about this hazard, we recommend you purchase and install two JHF# 728124 safety tags (See Figure 2). We recommend that one of these tags be installed in the basket and the other tag get installed near the boom controls mounted on the chassis.



FIGURE 1  
JHF# 677945

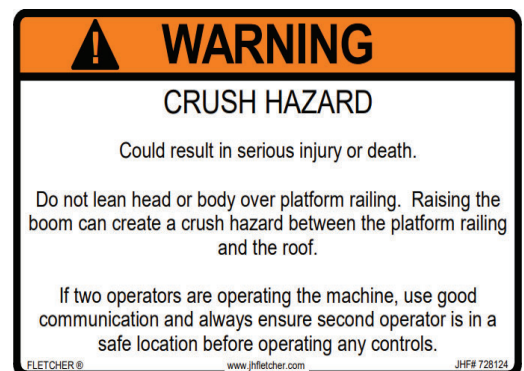


FIGURE 2  
JHF# 728124

### TOWING COAL ROOF BOLTERS LONG DISTANCES

JHF coal bolters are designed to be towed short distances to be repaired in a safe location should the machine become immobile. However, when moving from the mine entrance to a working face, or from worksite to worksite, the machine will need to be towed longer distances. Extra care must be utilized when towing long distances to avoid damage caused by excessive heat to the tram motors (tire machines) or the planetaries (crawler machines).

When towing either a crawler or tire machine, the most important thing to remember is never tow faster than the machine can tram, which is 100 ft/min or 1.1 MPH (30.5 m/min or 1.8 KM/H). Even at this low speed, the motors/planetaries could overheat when towing long distances. Operators must stop frequently to let the parts cool when towing long distances. There isn't an exact temperature limit due to several variables on each machine such as oil cleanliness, component wear, and ambient temperature.

#### Crawler Machines:

To prevent machine damage when towing a crawler machine, the operator is limited to 2 methods.

One method is to tow the machine slowly and frequently stop to allow the planetaries time to cool. The other method is to tow or tram the machine onto a skid, then tow the skid to the desired location.

#### Tire Machines:

When towing a tire machine, the operator has three options to prevent machine damage. The operator could utilize the options discussed previously for crawler machines: frequent stops to allow the components time to cool or towing the machine on a skid, or the operator could disconnect the tram chains. Tire machines have chains that connect the wheels to the tram motors. These chains can be removed which allows the machine to be towed at any safe speed. However, there isn't a tensioner on the chains, and they can be time consuming to remove. The operator must decide based on available equipment, potential machine downtime, towing distance, and available manpower if removing the chains is worthwhile.

Follow the towing procedures found in your Operator and Service Manuals, and these guidelines, to relocate your machine properly and not damage its components

### SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURES REVISITED: HANDS OFF DRILLING

It is important from time to time to revisit topics from past newsletters and information bulletins to ensure newer employees are aware of hazards associated with operating our equipment. At this time, we feel it is important to reiterate the importance of operators using Hands Off Drilling methods when drilling holes and installing bolts. Operators must ensure their hand, arms, legs, clothing, hair, and any other body parts or obstacles are clear of the drill steels or bolts before actuating the rotation control. To learn more about this topic and other safe drilling practices, go to <https://www.jhfletcher.com/bulletins> and review Information Bulletin 122: Roof Bolter Operation. Please ensure that safety tag JHF# 591418 is installed on each boom.

For safety posters that address this hazard as well as others, please visit <https://www.jhfletcher.com/safetyposters> and make your poster requests.



### 2024 MINExpo

MINExpo International was held from September 24-26 at the Las Vegas Convention Center, and this year's event set a new record! The 2024 MINExpo welcomed over 2,000 exhibitors and 45,000 attendees, doubling the turnout from 2021 and surpassing all expectations.

As a longtime exhibitor, Fletcher made an impressive impact with a 4,500-square-foot booth showcasing cutting-edge equipment, including the latest generation of Cannon drill jumbos and Fletcher's very first simulator for scaler operation training.

Following its acquisition in 2022, Cannon Mining Equipment is now part of J.H. Fletcher, and at this year's show, it unveiled the innovative DPIS-1-HED drill jumbo. Designed for development and production drilling, this single-boom drill jumbo handles headings from 10x10 feet (3x3 meters) up to 24x18 feet (7.3x5.5 meters) in a single setup. The machine, displayed at MINExpo, was delivered directly afterward to the University of Arizona's San Xavier Mining Laboratory to support their mine start-up project.



Also on display was the new CHDDR-AC indexing mast coal roof bolter, which was developed for challenging environments like those found in South African coal mines. This machine features an indexing bolting module that eliminates drill steel handling, improving the roof and rib-bolting cycle with efficiency and safety in mind.



The highlight of Fletcher's booth was the new scaler simulator. This VR-based system allows operators to experience the machine's controls, movements, and scaling functions without ever stepping on the machine. The simulator offers a complete operational experience, guiding learners through tasks while requiring them to make decisions and follow safety protocols in a fully immersive virtual environment.

MINExpo was a fantastic opportunity to connect with so many passionate mining professionals. Thank you to everyone who visited our booth and shared ideas on enhancing safety and efficiency in mining. We're excited to turn these conversations into partnerships.

If we missed you at the show, please reach out—we'd love to connect and discuss how Fletcher can create your next Custom-Built Solution.



### INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 139

J.H. Fletcher recently released a bulletin reminding those working in the environment where our machines are operated of possible respiratory hazards caused by particulate matter. This particulate matter may be generated or worsened by the machine itself, or it may be a byproduct of the environment in which the machine is being operated.

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, fill out the safety tag request form included in the bulletin.

In addition to providing sticker tags, a new section will appear in future Operator's Manuals regarding environmental hazards. For existing equipment in operation, we are requesting that our customers print Attachment 2 located in the bulletin and insert the information into the Operator's Manual for these machines.

For this Information Bulletin and others, please visit [www.jhfletcher.com/bulletins](http://www.jhfletcher.com/bulletins).

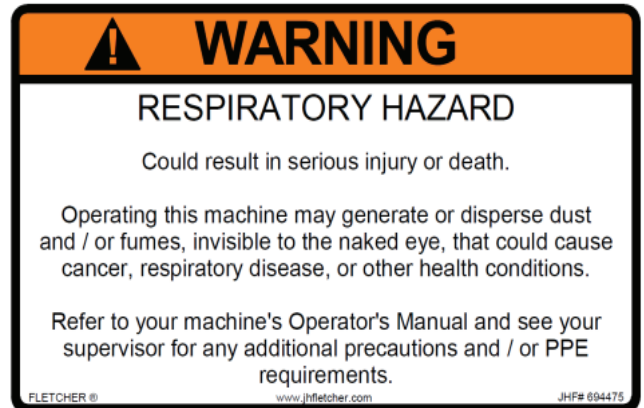


FIGURE 1: JHF# 694475 Safety Tag: Respiratory Hazard

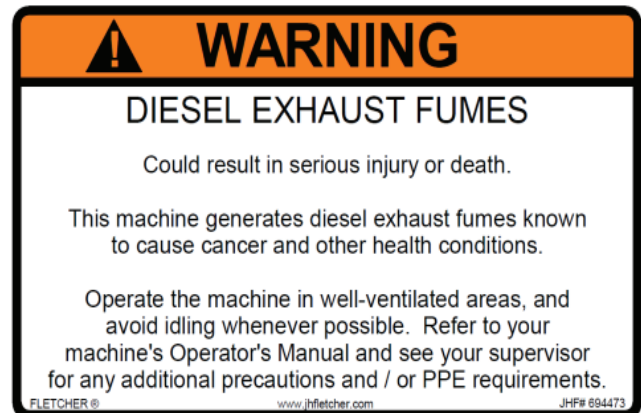


FIGURE 2: JHF# 694473 Safety Tag: Diesel Exhaust Fumes

### UPDATING CUSTOMER INFORMATION

J.H. Fletcher & Co. is reaching out and requesting contact information from our customers, so we can ensure our customer database is current. Having an accurate database helps us keep you, the customer, up-to-date with company news relevant to your Safety Department, Maintenance Department, Management, and / or Equipment Operators. By updating your contact information, you will improve our ability to effectively communicate with your company and the appropriate personnel who require our notifications.

To make this process simple, we've included a QR code and a short link below that will lead you to the contact form. We kindly ask that you pass this along to the appropriate departments / personnel for completion, including equipment operators who may wish to receive updates. In appreciation of your time, everyone who completes the form will be entered into a drawing to win one of 20 exclusive Fletcher hats, or one person will win a \$100 gift card to use at our Company Store. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to enhancing our service and support for your team!

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Brett Black at [bblack@jhfletcher.com](mailto:bblack@jhfletcher.com) or 304-525-7811.



<https://zfrmz.com/TFDw0zfoXVEbKnLjXbN2>

### FOLLOW OUR SOCIALS

Follow all divisions of J.H. Fletcher & Co. and Cannon Mining Equipment across social media like Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn to obtain up-to-date information like job opportunities, giveaways, upcoming appearances and more.



**@FletcherMiningEquipment**

**@FletcherEngSol**

**@CannonMining**

Did you know you can also find J.H. Fletcher & Co. videos on YouTube? Click below for machine demos and more!



### J.H. FLETCHER & CO. WEBSITE

Visit our website at [www.jhfletcher.com](http://www.jhfletcher.com) for news, product information and contact details. Looking for other helpful content? Our site also contains additional useful materials which can be found at any of the links below:

- [Resources](#)- Bulletins, safety posters/stickers, newsletters, maintenance procedures & more!
- [Careers](#)- Current job openings & a link to the employment application.
- [Customer Survey](#)- Tell us how we're doing!

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