



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

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 109

TO: ALL OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF FLETCHER MACHINES THAT HAVE A TEACH/LEARN RADIO TRANSMITTER PART NO. 121274

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

DATE: JULY 10, 2008

SUBJECT: FLETCHER MACHINES THAT HAVE THE TEACH/LEARN RADIO TRANSMITTER ONLY (PART NO. 121274)

J.H. Fletcher & Co. ("Fletcher") has been notified that an error in programming allows two separate radio remote machines to work from the same transmitter. This phenomenon could result in an unintentional movement of a roof bolter. This situation is limited to less than thirty (30) CHDDR machines.

This problem will not occur if you are running only one machine in a section. The possibility of this occurring is when two machines are working in the same section and both machines have been connected to the same transmitter. There have not been any reported injuries or close calls when this situation occurs.

If you believe this scenario is a possibility at your facility, Fletcher recommends you immediately stop using the radio remote unit until Fletcher can fix the problem. **You may continue to use your transmitter (in the umbilical mode) by plugging in the teach/learn cable until the fixes can be made at your mine.** Using both machines with the same transmitter could result in serious injury or death to your operators.

To resolve this problem, Fletcher is taking immediate steps to identify the location of these specific machines in the field and to either reprogram or change out the receiver immediately. The results of this reprogramming of the radios will allow only one receiver to control one roof drill unit.

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Fletcher will make every effort to change out the roof bolter remote as soon as possible. Until we contact you, we recommend that you;

1. Provide each of your operators with a copy of this bulletin and ensure that they understand and follow it.
2. Post this bulletin in a prominent location for all employees to see.
3. Train all personnel that absolutely no one should stand between the machine and rib during tramming (see warning tag no. 359088 on your machine).

This safety notice affects only machine that have a specifically designed remote control. (See attached list of machines). You will be contacted by Fletcher by next week to arrange for a time to exchange the remote unit. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call David P. Cooper, Vice President of Risk Management at (304) 525-7811.

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MACHINE LIST FOR PART NO. 121274

MACHINE SERIAL NO.	MACHINE MODEL
2008066	CHDDR-17
2008065	CHDDR-17
2008064	CHDDR-17
2008033	CHDDR-13
2008032	CHDDR-13
2008031	CHDDR-13
2008030	CHDDR-13
2008001	CHDDR-17
2007805(2002042)	CHDDR-13
2007804(2001009)	CHDDR-13
2007039	CHDDR-13
2007026	CHDDR-13
2006457(2001048)	CHDDR-17
2006456(2001047)	CHDDR-17
2006455(2001046)	CHDDR-17
2006093	CHDDR-17
2006092	CHDDR-17
2006091	CHDDR-17
2006090	CHDDR-17
2006061	CHDDR-17
2006060	CHDDR-13
2006056	CHDDR-17
2006031	CHDDR-17
2006030	CHDDR-17
2005062	CHDDR-17
2005048	CHDDR-17
2005042	CHDDR-17



SAFETY COMMUNICATION

Please review the following incident with all employees

San Juan Coal Co.

During regular mining activities the remote control unit for one of two Fletcher HDDR roof bolters on that section discharged. The remote for the second machine on the section was taken to the entry and the system went through it's teach/learn process to become configured to the machine that had discharged its remote. When the remote was used to start that machine, the second roof bolter started as well. The single remote was operating both machines. This was not supposed to be possible with the new remote control designs.

Contributing Factors Identified

- *Two roof bolting machines located on the same section.*
- *One remote became completely discharged.*
- *MSHA regulations require tramping operations to be done from the ground when there is no onboard operator compartment and canopy.*
- *The existing system design and procedures did not anticipate and control the risk of a single remote going through the teach/learn process for two machines.*
- *What we learned is that the presence of signals from both remotes allows the system to perform in a fail safe manner.*

What San Juan has done?

- *Operators immediately reported the event.*
- *Investigation commenced to identify how this could occur.*
- *Verified the issue and found that unless a second remote signal is within range, the two bolters can indeed be operated by a single remote.*
- *Verified that this event could not be reproduced if at least one machine had an umbilical cord plugged in.*
- *Contacted the manufacturer to notify them of the issue.*
- *Presently all bolters have been placed on umbilical cords until the manufacturer can provide a solution.*
- *If an umbilical cord becomes damaged and out of service, one roof bolter may be operated with the remote, provided the other is on an umbilical cord or has been isolated per our lockout, tagout procedures while a new umbilical cord is in transit to the section.*
- *If both umbilicals are damaged or fail to work, one bolter must be locked out at the power center until at least one umbilical is restored to service.*
- *Safety Alert issued to BHP Billiton, MSHA, Manufacturer and the wider mining industry.*
- *Manufacturer is sending alerts to machine owners.*
- *Remote control manufacturer has identified the source of the problem and has developed a permanent fix. Technician is in transit to San Juan to complete the repair.*

What can you do?

- *This condition and the identified interim control methods may place you in unfamiliar situations,*
- *During the period when the issue is being resolved, complete a SLAM sheet covering the tramping of bolters.*
- *Review the specific Red Zones around this machine and ensure you and others stay out of them while the machine is being trammed.*
- *Do not deviate from the control methods identified.*
- *Continue to report these Near Miss events so these "Gorillas" can be hunted down and eliminated or controlled. As demonstrated with this event, a very simple report can have a*

significant impact on reducing risk for miners around the world. Identifying such issues, getting the opportunity and then fixing such problems, before something really happens is one of the tools we can use in order to get to Zero Harm.