

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

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 94

TO:	ALL CUSTOMERS WITH J.H. FLETCHER & CO. EQUIPMENT
FROM:	J.H. FLETCHER & CO.
DATE:	SEPTEMBER 2003
SUBJECT:	FLETCHER OPERATOR CANOPIES

All Fletcher roof bolters use or can use operator protection canopies. Most of these canopies are attached to an extendible support post actuated by a hydraulic cylinder within the post. A single large bolt connects the inner tube of the support post to the cylinder rod. This connection is critical to the safe operation of the canopy.

A near miss recently occurred because of an unexpected drop of the driller canopy. When the operator activated the canopy lower control lever, the canopy did not immediately lower and remained in the raised position, and then dropped unexpectedly. The malfunction was due to the cylinder and support post connection bolt becoming loose or damaged, and eventually failing. Anytime the canopy control lever is activated and the canopy does not lower, do not remain under the canopy. The cause of any support post connection malfunction should be evaluated and repaired immediately by maintenance personnel.

In response to this near miss J.H. Fletcher & Co. recommends that all operators be made aware of this potential problem and emphasizes that the service manual requirement of weekly torque checks be performed to ensure that the bolt is tightened to 150ft-lbs (see Attachment 1). Fletcher requires the inspection of this connection bolt as part of the weekly torque check. In addition, always check for correct control functions before operating this machine

Fletcher now offers a cap (part number: 381113) to prevent dirt and debris from filling up the bolt access hole, providing quicker and easier access to the canopy bolt for inspection (see Attachment 2).

As an alternative to the existing design that requires the bolt torque inspection, Fletcher has developed a support post and cylinder design that eliminates the bolt altogether (see Attachment 3). The new design uses a pin to connect the cylinder rod to the support post inner tube. The pin is held in place by the canopy or support post cap. You can exchange your existing post and cylinder for this new design through our service department or an authorized distributor, or upgrade it during your machine or boom modernization. This new design will be installed on all new Fletcher equipment.

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Please provide a copy of this bulletin to all personnel who operate or have access to a Fletcher machine, including maintenance personnel.

Contact Fletcher or an authorized distributor for price and availability of the design enhancement shown in Attachment 3 or the canopy cap in Attachment 2.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin or the information provided within, please call David P. Cooper in the Risk Management Department at (304) 525-7811, Ex.240 or by email at dcooper@jhletcher.com.



SERVICE MANUAL

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DRILLER CANOPY SUPPORT POST

CYLINDER ATTACHMENT BOLT



The driller canopy support post assembly is made up of three nested square tubes, supported by a hydraulic cylinder. A bolt, located at the top of the housing assembly, provides the connection between the tubing and hydraulic cylinder.

DANGER:

Failure in the connection between the cylinder and tubing can result in an unexpected drop in the driller canopy at some point after the CANOPY control lever is operated in the "canopy lower" direction.

This unexpected drop in the canopy can result in serious injury or even death.

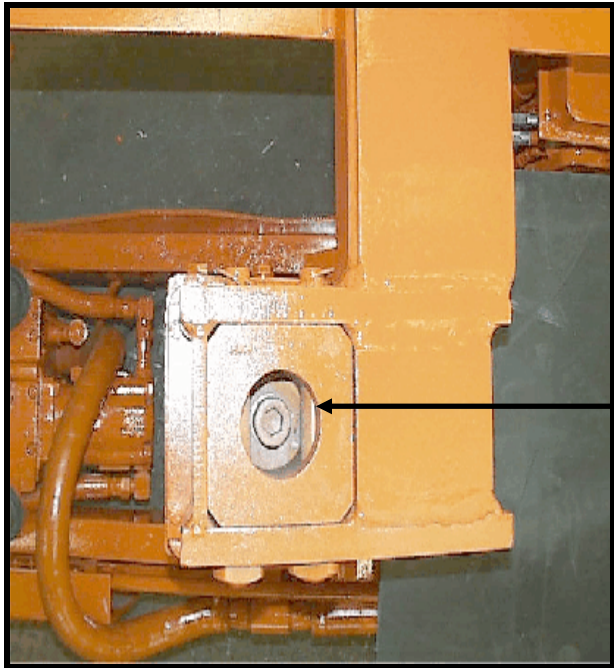
This bolt must be checked weekly – making sure it is in place and properly tightened.

Whenever re-assembling the driller canopy support post assembly, always use a genuine Fletcher OEM replacement bolt and tighten to 150 ft-lbs.

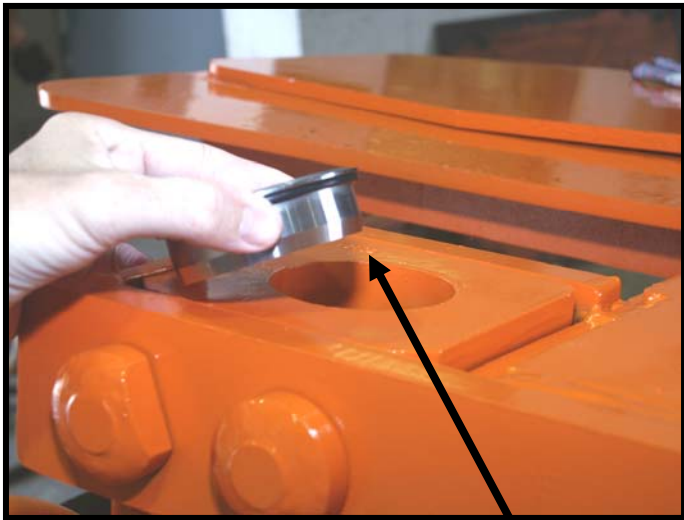
ARROWS INDICATE LOCATION OF CANOPY ATTACHMENT BOLT



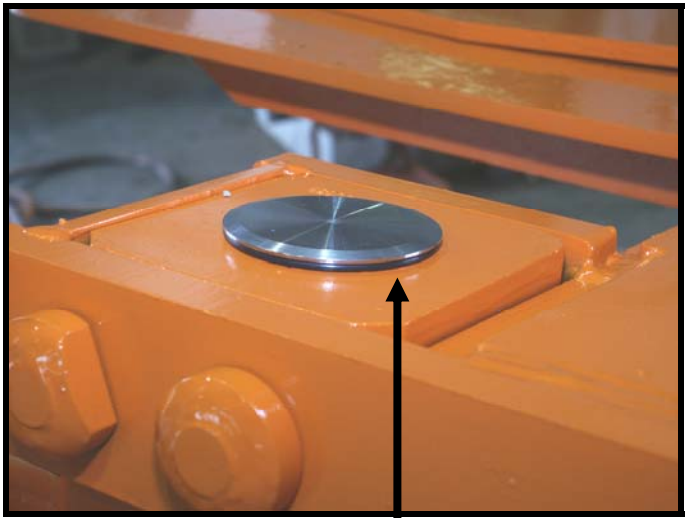
SUPPORT POST CANOPY BOLT



NO CAP

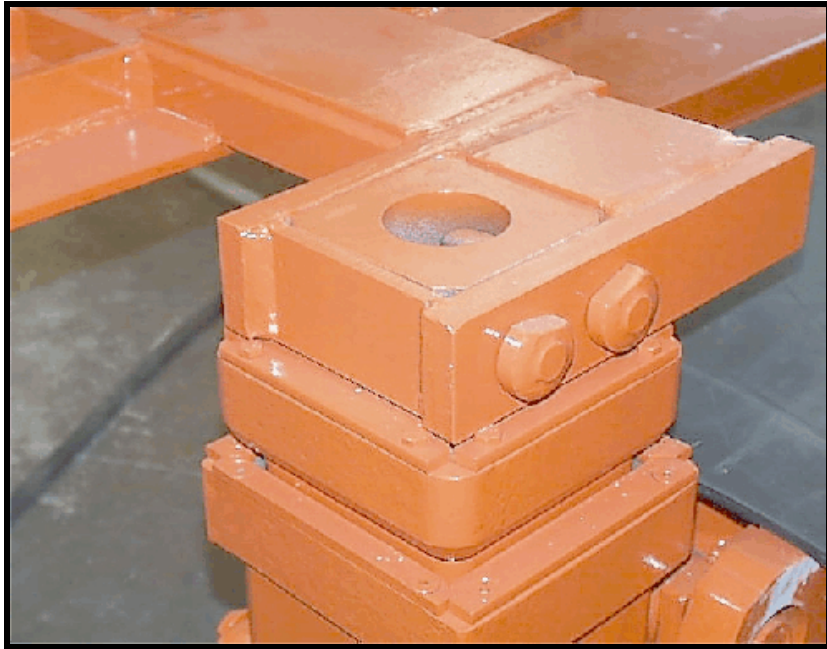


**CAP WITH
O - RING**

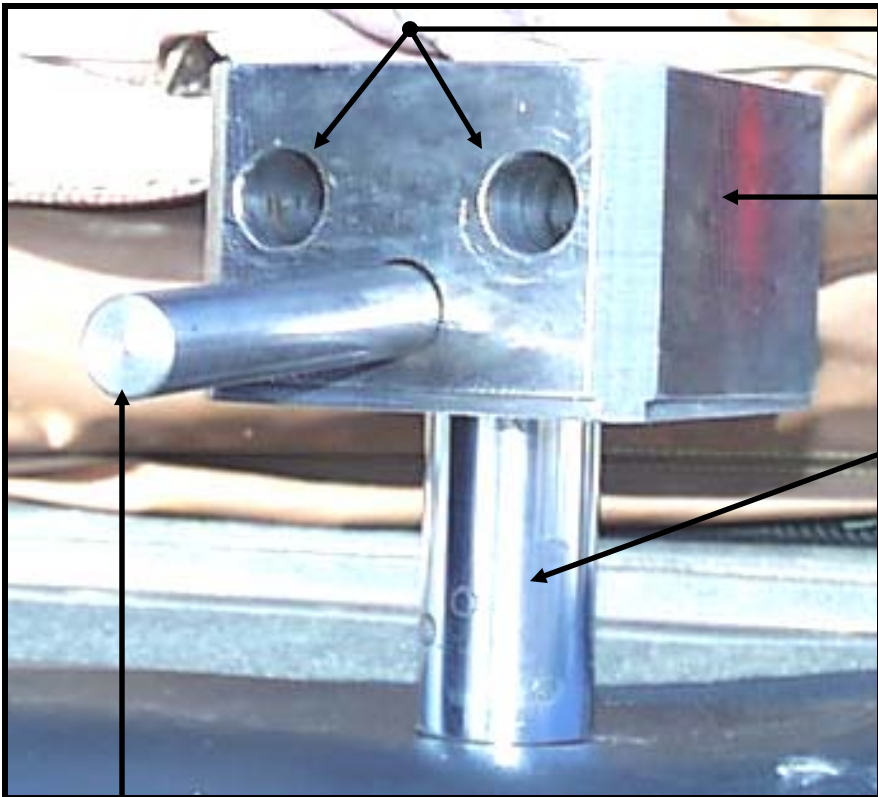


**CAP IN THE HOLE ABOVE
RETAINER BOLT**

SUPPORT POST – CURRENT DESIGN



SUPPORT POST – ALTERNATIVE DESIGN



**CANOPY
RETAINER
PINS**

**CANOPY
MOUNT
BLOCK**

**CYLINDER
ROD**

**PIN THAT
WOULD GO
THROUGH
THE
CYLINDER
ROD**