

2.10. Fife Coal Company safety and accident statistics, 1936-45.

Comparison of Frequency and Severity of Injuries to Hands etc, with 1931 Statistics as Basis

Year	Total Number of Hand, Head, Feet and Eye Injuries and 'Beat' cases (a)	Percentage Reduction in Frequency	Total time Lost Due to (a) (weeks)	Percentage Reduction in Time Lost
1931	959	-	4635	-
1939	203	78.8	928	80
1945	417	56.5	1918	58.6

Injuries to Hands, Heads, Feet and Eyes and 'Beat' Cases per 100,000 Manshifts Worked

	Hands	Heads	Feet	Eyes	'Beat Hand'	'Beat Knee'
All Fife Coal Co. Collieries 1939	2.75	0.80	1.99	0.57	0.45	1.18
All British Mines 1938	20.42	3.99	7.23	3.25	0.49	2.18

Injuries to Boys Under 16 Years of Age

Year	No. Employed		% of Total Colliery Personnel	No. of Injured and off work for 3 days or more		Average Time Lost per Injury (weeks)	% of Boys under 16 years injured and off work for 3 days or more			
	Surface	Underground		Surface	Underground		All British Mines		Fife Coal Co. Ltd.	
							Surface	Underground	Surface	Underground
1931	219	-	2.14	34	-	4.8			15.5	-
1932	225	-	2.51	19	-	7.3			8.4	-
1933	210	-	2.55	21	-	5.0			10.0	-
1934	205	10	2.53	17	1	5.3			8.3	10.0
1935	180	35	2.53	20	2	5.5	9.7	25.4	11.1	5.7
1936	188	34	2.49	9	-	6.0	10.1	27.9	4.9	-
1937	212	18	2.51	13	-	3.6	10.5	28.1	6.1	-
1938	248	12	2.71	3	-	7.3	10.2	24.7	1.2	-
1939	267	15	3.29	3	-	6.5	10.2	23.3	1.1	-
1940	296	16	3.68	6	1	5.5	12.5	27.0	2.0	6.2
1941	253	32	3.56	9	2	6.5	15.4	34.1	3.8	6.2
1942	245	30	3.22	12	2	5.5	16.3	34.1	4.9	6.7
1943	208	27	2.88	12	1	7.3	16.5	33.8	5.8	3.7
1944	125	28	1.79	9	1	8.0	17.0	37.7	7.2	3.6
1945	155	19	2.14	4	-	8.6			2.6	

Frequency and Severity of Injuries to Hands, Heads, Feet and Eyes and cases of 'Beat' Hand and Beat' Knee

Year	Hand Injuries (a)		Head Injuries (b)		Foot Injuries (c)		Eye injuries (d)		'Beat' Hands' (e)		'Beat' Knees (f)		Total (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f)	Total Time Lost (wks)
	No.	Total Time lost (wks)	No.	Total Time lost (wks)	No.	Total Time lost (wks)	No.	Total Time lost (wks)	No.	Total Time lost (wks)	No.	Total Time lost (wks)		
1931	489	2445	93	536	161	627	72	408	46	167	98	542	958	4635
1932	437	2031	66	451	143	581	55	346	41	149	102	466	844	4024
1933	420	1899	48	339	121	503	31	290	40	154	93	435	753	3610
1934	414	1937	71	442	119	549	39	273	32	112	99	446	774	3759
1935	356	1531	46	295	101	554	41	340	23	90	89	464	656	5275
1936	215	1355	35	253	70	267	40	233	20	44	69	291	449	2489
1937	184	852	38	207	58	204	32	208	14	44	50	251	304	1766
1938	114	514	22	163	54	237	18	91	22	68	44	208	274	1269
1939	72	318	21	178	52	207	15	54	12	49	31	123	205	929
1940	64	387	14	83	56	281	25	107	15	54	41	169	235	1081
1941	149	610	26	79	68	316	39	148	10	23	50	196	342	1372
1942	146	733	37	234	70	358	35	203	11	40	48	150	347	1724
1943	167	802	35	295	63	403	24	114	8	23	23	192	355	1829
1944	210	1019	44	252	102	474	43	217	17	48	56	207	472	2217
1945	108	947	22	91	94	456	27	139	11	57	55	228	417	1910

Classification of Non-Fatal Reportable Injuries 1931 – 1945

Year	Falls of Roof or Slides	Haulage Operations	Shot-firing	Gas Ignition Explosion or Outburst	Machinery	Electricity	Over-winding	Misc U/ground	Surface Operations	Total
1931	23	8	4	-	2	2	-	-	1	40
1932	27	9	5	-	3	3	-	1	-	48
1933	24	10	3	2	1	3	-	1	-	44
1934	24	8	2	-	3	2	-	-	2	41
1935	28	6	1	-	4	1	-	1	-	41
1936	16	7	1	1	3	-	-	3	-	31
1937	19	3	4	-	2	3	-	4	4	39
1938	12	5	7	-	-	2	1	2	3	32
1939	9	9	8	26 X	1	2	-	-	1	56
1940	9	7	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	21
1941	5	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	3	20
1942	12	4	3	-	2	1	-	1	4	27
1943	11	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	17
1944	7	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	12
1945	7	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	10

X Valleyfield Explosion

Percentages of Total Colliery Personnel Killed, Seriously Injured and Slightly Injured, 1931 – 1945

Year	Total Colliery Personnel	No. of Injuries			Percentage of Total Personnel		
		Fatal	Non – Fatal Reportable	Others	Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured
1931	9074	25	40	1322	0.28	0.44	14.57
1932	8597	13	48	1192	0.15	0.56	13.87
1933	8394	13	44	1119	0.15	0.52	13.33
1934	8593	11	41	1165	0.13	0.48	13.56
1935	8612	12	41	1047	0.14	0.48	12.16
1936	8911	13	31	737	0.15	0.35	8.27
1937	9179	10	39	644	0.11	0.42	7.02
1938	9425	7	32	509	0.07	0.34	5.40
1939	9386	49	56	430	0.52	0.60	4.58
1940	9149	8	21	478	0.09	0.23	5.22
1941	8699	9	20	633	0.10	0.23	7.28
1942	9061	7	27	688	0.08	0.30	7.59
1943	9026	11	17	688	0.12	0.19	7.62
1944	9223	3	12	865	0.03	0.13	9.38
1945	9267	7	10	817	0.08	0.11	8.82

Source: National Archives of Scotland, Edinburgh, CB3/134, J. N. Williamson, *Ten Years of Safety Work in a Scottish Colliery Group. The Safety Records of the Fife Coal Company Limited 1936 – 1945* (1946).