

2.2. Causes of Death 1st January 1851 to 31 December 1859 in coal-pits, derived from Mine Inspector Reports.

	Explosion	Fall of roof or coal	In shafts	Miscellaneous under ground	Miscellaneous on surface	TOTAL DEATHS PER YEAR
1851	321	327	219	78	44	984
1852	264	349	209	116	48	986
1853	314	370	236	94	43	957
1854	210	389	290	99	57	1,045
1855	148	399	235	170	11	963
1856	235	399	210	176	7	1,027
1857	377	373	162	188	22	1,122
1858	215	366	172	140	38	931
1859	95	399	191	160	60	905
TOTAL	2,079	3,371	1,924	1,216	330	8,920

Although it was explosions that drove legislation to establish the Mines Inspectorate in 1850, many more men were killed by falls of rock or coal. Explosions accounted for just over 23 per cent of deaths in collieries during the 1850s.

Source: H. H. B., *Black Diamonds; or, the Gospel in a Colliery District* (London: James Nisbet, 1861), pp.134, 135.