**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.