

China mine blast death toll hits 87

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Beijing, China (CNN) -- The death toll from an explosion at a northeastern China coal mine rose to 87 early Sunday, state-run media reported.

Another 21 workers were still trapped underground at the mine as of 7 a.m. Sunday (2300 GMT), the Xinhua news agency reported.

About 530 miners were working when the blast occurred at 2:30 a.m. Saturday. The Heilongjiang Longmei's Xinxing mine is operated by the Hegang company.

A preliminary investigation indicates that the cause was a gas explosion, Xinhua reported.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/asiapcf/11/21/china.mine.blast/index.html>