



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines

NDRRMC ADVISORY

TO : CHAIRPERSONS, RDRRMCs/OCDROs CALABARZON and V

FROM : Executive Director, NDRRMC and Administrator, OCD

SUBJECT : Alert Status and Activity of Mayon, Taal, and Bulusan Volcanoes

DATE : 20 November 2019, 8:00 AM

Source: DOST-PHIVOLCS 20 November 2019, 08:00 AM

I. SITUATION OVERVIEW

A. ALERT STATUS OF MAYON VOLCANO

Mayon Volcano's seismic monitoring network recorded did not detect any volcanic earthquake during the 24-hour observation period. **Moderate emission of white steam-laden that rose 650 meters before drifting north-northwest was observed.** Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emission was measured at an average of 531 tonnes/day on 30 October 2019. Ground deformation data from Precise Leveling surveys obtained on 23 – 30 October 2019 indicate slight deflation of the edifice relative to 16 – 25 July 2019. However, the volcano generally remains inflated relative to early 2019 baseline level. This is consistent with recent electronic tilt data. Continuous GPS data also showed inflation of the edifice since February 2019.

Alert Level 2 currently prevails over Mayon Volcano. This means that Mayon is at a moderate level of unrest. DOST-PHIVOLCS reminds the public that sudden explosions, lava collapses, pyroclastic density currents or PDCs and ashfall can still occur and threaten areas in the upper to middle slopes of Mayon. DOST-PHIVOLCS recommends that entry into the six kilometer-radius Permanent Danger Zone or PDZ and a precautionary seven kilometer-radius Extended Danger Zone or EDZ in the south-southwest to east-northeast sector, stretching from Anoling, Camalig to Sta. Misericordia, Sto. Domingo must be strictly prohibited. People residing close to these danger areas are also advised to observe precautions associated with rockfalls, PDCs, and ashfall. Active stream/river channels and those identified as perennially lahar-prone areas on all sectors of the volcano should also be avoided especially during extreme weather conditions when there is heavy and prolonged rainfall. Civil aviation authorities must advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano's summit as airborne ash and ballistic fragments from sudden explosions and PDCs may pose hazards to aircraft.

B. ALERT STATUS OF TAAL VOLCANO

Taal Volcano's seismic monitoring network recorded **sixty-eight (68) volcanic earthquakes** during the 24-hour observation period. Field measurements on 14 November 2019 at the western sector of the Main Crater Lake yielded a decrease in water temperature from 32.9°C to 32.1°C, no change in water level of 0.5 meters and an increase in acidity from a pH of 2.94 to 2.88. Ground deformation measurements through precise leveling surveys from 19 - 26 September 2019 indicated inflation of the edifice consistent with recent results from continuous GPS data.

Alert Level 1 remains in effect over Taal Volcano. This means that hazardous eruption is not imminent. The public, however, is reminded that the Main Crater should be strictly off-limits because sudden steam explosions may occur and high concentrations of toxic gases may accumulate. The northern portion of the Main Crater rim, in the vicinity of Daang Kastila Trail, may also become hazardous when steam emission along existing fissures suddenly increases. Furthermore, the public is also reminded that the entire Volcano Island is a Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ), and permanent settlement in the island is strongly not recommended.

C. ALERT STATUS OF BULUSAN VOLCANO

Bulusan Volcano's seismic monitoring network recorded **one (1)** volcanic earthquake during the 24-hour observation period. Ground deformation data from Precise Leveling surveys obtained on 20 – 28 October 2019 indicate slight inflation of the edifice relative to the 29 August – 05 September 2019 surveys. However, data recorded by Bulusan's continuous GPS network show continued deflation of the edifice since July 2018.

Alert Level 1 (abnormal) status remains in effect over Bulusan Volcano, which means that it is currently in a state of unrest probably driven by hydrothermal processes that could generate steam-driven or phreatic eruptions. Local government units and the public are reminded that entry into the 4-kilometer radius Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ) is strictly prohibited and that vigilance in the Extended Danger Zone (EDZ) must be exercised due to the increased possibilities of sudden and hazardous phreatic eruptions. Civil aviation authorities must also advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano's summit as ash from any sudden phreatic eruption can be hazardous to aircraft. Furthermore, people living within valleys and along river/stream channels especially on the southeast, southwest and northwest sector of the edifice should be vigilant against sediment-laden stream flows and lahars in the event of heavy and prolonged rainfall. DOST-PHIVOLCS is closely monitoring Bulusan Volcano's condition and any new development will be communicated to all concerned stakeholders.

You are hereby directed to undertake precautionary measures and monitor the situation in your AOR. Likewise, the Public and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (DRRMCs) concerned are advised to take precautions and appropriate actions.

In order to better inform/warn communities, you are reminded to disseminate these through local/community leaders and through your local media, including community radio stations. Conduct press briefings as often as needed. This local effort will complement and reinforce efforts at the national level. Emphasis should be on proactive actions – evacuation rather than rescue.

Let's untiringly aim for zero casualty.

Submit report on actions taken.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIRPERSON, NDRRMC:


UNDERSECRETARY RICARDO B JALAD
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