



NDRRMC ADVISORY

TO : CHAIRPERSONS, RDRRMCs/OCD CALABARZON and V
FROM : Executive Director, NDRRMC and Administrator, OCD
SUBJECT : Taal and Mayon Volcano Bulletin
DATE : 15 February 2020, 8:00 AM

Source: DOST-PHIVOLCS

I. SITUATION OVERVIEW

A. ALERT STATUS OF TAAL VOLCANO

Activity in the Main Crater in the past 24 hours has been characterized by weak emission of steam-laden plumes rising 50 to 100m high before drifting southwest. Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emission was below instrumental detection due to weak plume activity. The Taal Volcano Network recorded seventy-seven (77) volcanic earthquakes. These earthquakes signify magmatic activity beneath the Taal edifice that could lead to eruptive activity at the Main Crater. Activity in the Main Crater in the past 24 hours has been characterized by weak emission of steam-laden plumes rising 50 to 100m high before drifting southwest. Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emission was below instrumental detection due to weak plume activity. The Taal Volcano Network recorded seventy-seven (77) volcanic earthquakes. These earthquakes signify magmatic activity beneath the Taal edifice that could lead to eruptive activity at the Main Crater.

Alert Level 2 is maintained over Taal Volcano. DOST-PHIVOLCS reminds the public that at Alert Level 2, sudden steam-driven or phreatic explosions, volcanic earthquakes, ashfall and lethal accumulations or expulsions of volcanic gas can occur and threaten areas within TVI and along its coast. DOST-PHIVOLCS recommends that entry into TVI, Taal's Permanent Danger Zone must be strictly prohibited. Local government units are advised to additionally assess previously evacuated areas within the seven-kilometer radius for damages and road accessibilities and to strengthen preparedness, contingency and communication measures in case of renewed unrest. People are also advised to observe precautions due to ground displacement across fissures, frequent ashfall and minor earthquakes. Communities beside active river channels particularly where ash from the main eruption phase has been thickly deposited should increase vigilance when there is heavy and prolonged rainfall since the ash can be washed away and form lahars along the channels. Civil aviation authorities must advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano as airborne ash and ballistic fragments from sudden explosions and wind-remobilized ash may pose hazards to aircrafts. DOST-PHIVOLCS is closely monitoring Taal Volcano's activity and any new significant development will be immediately communicated to all stakeholders.

B. ALERT STATUS OF MAYON VOLCANO

Mayon Volcano's seismic monitoring network recorded one (1) volcanic earthquake during the 24-hour observation period. Weak to moderate emission of white steam-laden plumes that crept downslope before drifting west to north-northwest was observed. **Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emission was measured at an average of 529 tonnes/day on 14 February 2020.** Recent electronic tilt data showed inflation of the northern sector of the volcanic edifice that began in the last quarter of 2019. This follows an inflationary trend that began in February 2019 as recorded by continuous GPS monitoring.

DOST-PHIVOLCS reiterates that Alert Level 2 currently prevails over Mayon because the volcano is at a moderate level of unrest. It is therefore strongly recommended 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, should be strictly prohibited. The public is reminded that sudden explosions, lava collapse, pyroclastic density currents or PDCs and ashfall can occur without warning and threaten areas in the upper to middle slopes of Mayon. People residing close to these danger areas are also advised to observe precautions against 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. DOST-PHIVOLCS is closely monitoring Mayon Volcano's condition and any new development will be relayed to all concerned.

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:


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