



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/OCDRO CALABARZON**

**FROM : Executive Director, NDRRMC and Administrator, OCD**

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

**DATE : 14 January 2020, 8:00 AM**

*Source: DOST-PHIVOLCS 14 January 2020, 08:00 AM*

**I. SITUATION OVERVIEW**

**A. ALERT STATUS OF MAYON VOLCANO**

Mayon Volcano's seismic monitoring network did not detect any volcanic earthquake during the 24-hour observation period. **Moderate emission of white steam-laden plumes that crept downslope before drifting west, southeast and north-northwest was observed.** Sulfur dioxide emission was measured at an average of 115 tonnes/day on 10 January 2019. Ground deformation data from Precise Leveling surveys obtained on 23 – 30 October 2019 indicate a slight deflation of the edifice relative to 16 – 25 July 2019. However, the volcano generally remains inflated relative to the 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 BULUSAN VOLCANO**

Bulusan Volcano's seismic monitoring 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.

### **C. ALERT STATUS OF TAAL VOLCANO**

For the past 24 hours, Taal Volcano's activity has been characterized by continuous eruption of the Main Crater due to magmatic and hydrovolcanic activity. This ongoing eruption generated 500-meter tall lava fountains topped by dark gray steam-laden plumes reaching approximately 2 kilometers tall that dispersed ash to the southwest and west of the Main Crater. Flashes of volcanic lightning were observed at the base of the degassing plumes this morning. New vents opened up on the northern flank where short 500-meter lava fountains, and within the main crater where steam plumes, have emanated.

Since the last update, heavy ashfall from the ongoing continuous activity of Taal Volcano has reportedly fallen on the municipalities of Lemery, Talisay, Taal, and Cuenca, Batangas.

The Philippine Seismic Network has recorded a total of **two hundred twelve (212) volcanic earthquakes in Taal region as of 2:00 AM, January 14, 2020. Eighty-one (81)** of these earthquakes were felt with intensities ranging from **Intensity I – V in Tagaytay City, Cavite**. Such intense seismic activity probably signifies continuous magmatic intrusion beneath the Taal edifice, which may lead to further eruptive activity.

Alert Level 4 still remains in effect over Taal Volcano. This means that hazardous explosive eruption is possible within hours to days. DOST-PHIVOLCS strongly reiterates total evacuation of Taal Volcano Island and areas at high risk to pyroclastic density currents and volcanic tsunami within a 14-kilometer radius from Taal Main Crater. Areas in the general north of Taal Volcano are advised to guard against the effects of heavy and prolonged ashfall. Civil aviation authorities must advise aircraft to avoid the airspace around Taal Volcano as airborne ash and ballistic fragments from the eruption column pose hazards to aircraft. DOST-PHIVOLCS is continually monitoring the eruption and will update all stakeholders of further developments.

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**

Executive Director, NDRRMC and  
Administrator, OCD