



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

NDRRMC UPDATE

Update on Alert Status and Activity of Mayon and Taal Volcanoes

Releasing Officer:

for: 
UNDERSECRETARY RICARDO B JALAD
Executive Director, NDRRMC and
Administrator, OCD

DATE : 31 January 2020, 8:00 AM

Source: DOST-PHIVOLCS 31 January 2020, 08:00 AM

I. SITUATION OVERVIEW

A. ALERT STATUS OF MAYON VOLCANO

Mayon Volcano's seismic monitoring network **recorded one (1) volcanic earthquake** during the 24-hour observation period. Weak emission of white steam-laden plumes that drifted east-northeast was observed. Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emission was measured at an average of 115 tonnes/day on 10 January 2020. 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 TAAL VOLCANO

Activity in the Main Crater in the past 24 hours has been characterized by moderate emission of white to dirty white steam-laden plumes 500 - 700 meters tall that drifted southwest. Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emission was below instrumental detection.

The Philippine Seismic Network (PSN) plotted a total of **Seven Hundred Sixty-Three (763) volcanic earthquakes since 1:00 PM, January 12, 2020. One hundred seventy-seven (177)** of these registered at magnitudes M1.2 – M4.1 and were felt at Intensities I – V. Since 5:00 AM on **January 29, 2020 until 5:00 AM** today, there were **seven (7)** volcanic earthquakes plotted, registered at magnitudes **M1.7 – M 2.5** with no felt event.

For the past 24 hours, the Taal Volcano Network, which can record small earthquakes undetectable by the PSN, recorded **one hundred sixteen (116)** volcanic earthquakes including **two (2)** low-frequency events. **These earthquakes signify magmatic activity beneath the Taal edifice that could lead to eruptive activity at the Main Crater.**

Alert Level 3 currently prevails over Taal Volcano. This means that although Taal's unrest continues, there is a decreased likelihood of hazardous explosive eruption to occur. DOST-PHIVOLCS reminds the public that sudden steam-driven and weak phreatomagmatic explosions, volcanic earthquakes, ashfall and lethal volcanic gas expulsions can still occur and threaten areas within Taal Volcano Island and nearby lakeshores. DOST-PHIVOLCS recommends that entry into the Taal Volcano Island as well as into areas over Taal Lake and communities west of the island within a seven (7) km radius from the Main Crater must be strictly prohibited. Based on PAGASA wind forecast, if the eruption plume remains below five (5) km, ash will be drifted to the municipalities east and south of the Main Crater; however, if a major eruption occurs during the day and the eruption column exceeds 7 km, ash will also be drifted over the western parts of Laguna and some parts of Quezon provinces. Civil aviation authorities must advise pilots 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.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN

1. NDRRM Operations Center prepared NDRRMC Advisory and Update, and disseminated the same to OCD Regional Centers IV-A and V through NDRRMC website in order to closely monitor the situation and take appropriate actions for any new development.
 2. Concerned NDRRMC member-agencies were provided with a copy of the Memorandum for the SND.
 3. DOST-PHIVOLCS is closely monitoring the activities of Mayon, Bulusan and Taal Volcanoes and any new development will be relayed to all concerned.
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