



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

Taal and Mayon Volcano Bulletin

Releasing Officer:


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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 200 to 300 meters high before drifting southwest. Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emission was measured at an average of 53 tonnes/day on February 15, 2020. The Taal Volcano Network recorded sixty-nine (69) volcanic earthquakes that are associated to rock fracturing processes beneath and around the edifice.

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 Taal Volcano Island (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 **did not detect any volcanic earthquake** during the 24-hour observation period. Wispy to weak emission of white steam-laden plumes that crept downslope before drifting west-southwest 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.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN

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