



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**

### **Updated Taal Volcano Bulletin**

Releasing Officer:

  
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Executive Director, NDRRMC and  
Administrator, OCD

**DATE : 03 February 2020, 8:00 AM**

Source: DOST-PHIVOLCS 03 February 2020, 08:00 AM

#### **I. SITUATION OVERVIEW**

#### **ALERT STATUS OF TAAL VOLCANO**

Activity in the Main Crater in the past 24 hours has been characterized by **moderate to voluminous** emission of **dirty-white to white** steam-laden plumes **rising 800 meters high before drifting southwest**. Sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emission was measured at an average of **97 tonnes/day on February 1, 2020**.

Taal Volcano's seismic monitoring network recorded **one hundred thirty-four (134) volcanic earthquakes** during the 24-hour observation period including one (1) low-frequency event. Two of these events at 4:20am and 5:42am registered respectively at Magnitude M3.2 and M2.3, the first having been felt at Intensity IV in Laurel and Agoncillo and Intensity III in Lemery, Batangas and Intensity II in Tagaytay City. These earthquakes signify magmatic activity beneath the Taal edifice that could lead to eruptive activity at the Main Crater.

Alert Level 3 is maintained over Taal Volcano. DOST-PHIVOLCS reminds the public that sudden steam-driven and even 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. Local government units are advised to assess areas outside 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 aircraft. DOST-PHIVOLCS is closely monitoring Taal Volcano's activity and any new significant development will be immediately communicated to all stakeholders.

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 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 Taal Volcano and any new development will be relayed to all concerned.
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