

# NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

## NDRRMC UPDATE

SitRep No. 8 re Taal Volcano Update

Releasing Officer



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*Sources: DOST-PHIVOLCS and OCD Region IV-A*

### 1. SITUATION OVERVIEW

- **Taal Volcano's (14.0000°N, 120.9833°E) seismic network recorded six (6) volcanic earthquakes during the past 24 hours.** Water temperature at the Taal Main Crater Lake slightly increased from 29.8°C to 30.1°C
- Likewise, gas measurements conducted last January, February and March 2011 yielded carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emission values of 2,250 tonnes per day (t/d), 1,875 t/d and 4,670 t/d respectively. This large rise in CO<sub>2</sub> concentration indicates gas release from the magma at depth
- Result of the ground deformation survey (precise levelling) conducted around the volcano Island last 05-11 April 2011 showed that volcano edifice is inflated as compared with the 02-09 February 2011 survey
- **Alert Level 2** is hoisted over Taal Volcano, with the interpretation that magma has been intruding towards the surface as manifested by CO<sub>2</sub> being released in the Main Crater Lake and increase in seismic activity.

### Precautionary Measures

- PHIVOLCS reminds the general public that the Main Crater, Daang Kastila Trail and Mt. Tabaro (1965-1977 Eruption Site) are strictly off-limits because sudden hazardous steam-driven explosions may occur and high concentration of toxic gases may accumulate
- Breathing air with high concentration of gases can be lethal to human, animals, and even cause damage to vegetation. In addition, it is reminded that the entire Volcano Island is a Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ) and permanent settlement in the island is strictly not recommended.

## Affected/Evacuated Population

- As of 18 April 2011, a total of 233 families or 1,373 persons evacuated from 3 barangays in 3 municipalities of Batangas. There were 14 families or 58 persons inside 2 evacuation centers while 219 families or 1,315 persons opted to stay with their relatives, detailed as follows:

Municipality/City/Brgy	Inside Evacuation Center			Outside Evac Center	
	Families	Persons	Evacuation Center	Families	Persons
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>58</b>		<b>219</b>	<b>1,315</b>
<b>Talisay</b> (from Pulo Island)	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Venancio Trinidad Memorial School</b>		
<b>San Nicolas</b> (from Brgy Alas-as)	<b>13</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of San Nicolas Public Market</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>1,209</b>
<b>Balete</b> (from the following Brgys: Looc, San Sebastian and Brgy Sala)				<b>29</b>	<b>106</b>

## 2. ACTIONS TAKEN

### PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES

- NDRRMC-OPCEN disseminated the information to RDRRMC-OCD Region IV-A through SMS, facsimile, website and NDRRMC Twitter and Facebook account for further dissemination to their respective local DRRMCs from the provincial down to the municipal level
- DOST-PHIVOLCS, in coordination with the RDRRMCs Region IV-A and PDRRMC Batangas, is closely monitoring Taal Volcano's activity and any new significant development will be immediately relayed to all concerned

### RDRRMC Region IV - A

- Issued a memorandum to Chairperson, PDRRMC Batangas and Chairpersons, MDRRMCs concerned on 01 April 2011 reiterating PHIVOLCS' previous reminder/recommendation that the main crater should remain strictly off-limits because sudden hazardous steam-driven explosions may occur and high concentrations of toxic gases may accumulate
- Issued a memorandum to all response group of the Regional Council, PDRRMC Batangas and lakeshore MDRRMCs to submit an inventory of their dedicated assets and resources to support relief and emergency response operations and preparedness activities to ensure effective and timely response or assistance in case Taal Volcano escalates and results to eruption

### PDRRMC Batangas

- Activated the Incident Command System and its DRRM Operations Center; placed PDRRMC Members on standby alert to be ready with their respective preparedness and response plan in case the activity of Taal Volcano escalates
- Conducted an inventory of resources and meeting with MDRRMC Balete to assess its preparedness and evaluate its Contingency Plan and an emergency meeting on 09 April 2011 presided by the Provincial Administrator Victor Reyes and discussed the following preparedness: As part of Volcano Eruption Contingency Plan, prepared evacuation centers for residents within the 0 - 7 km

radius; dispatched MDRRMC Contingents to Pulo Island and other lakeshores barangays; distributed pamphlets with information on what to have in the emergency kits; assembly area; pick-up points; and assigned motorized bancas in case of evacuation

- Conducted another emergency meeting on 11 April 2011 at 2:00 PM at the Batangas Provincial Assistance for Community Development (PACD) presided by Governor Vilma Recto and Provincial Administrator Reyes and discussed the preparedness and response plans of the lakeshore municipalities namely Talisay, San Nicolas, Balete, Agoncillo, Laurel and Mataas na Kahoy as well as of the concerned local RDRRMC and PDRRMC Member-Agencies; PHIVOLCS Director Solidum briefed on the status of Taal Volcano; and OCD IV-B Director Tomazar facilitated the discussion on the support that can be provided by the RDRRMC Member Agencies. Said meeting was attended by Directors of PHIVOLCS, OCD RC IV-A, DSWD IV-A, DOH, DepEd, DILG IV-A ARD, SOLCOM QRTF Commander, PCG, PN and other official representatives of RDRRMC and PDRRMC. Highlights of the meeting were the following:
  - ❖ PHIVOLCS explained the hazards associated by the possible eruption of Taal and reiterated the recommended measures/strategies to mitigate volcanic hazards
  - ❖ PDRRMO Batangas and Lakeshores MDRRMCs discussed the consolidated Taal Volcano Contingency Plan
  - ❖ RDRRMC Member-Agencies such as DSWD, SOLCOM, PCG, DOH, PNP, 202<sup>nd</sup> - PA, DILG, DepEd, DOST and PN identified their respective support/augmentation that can be provided to the affected communities
  - ❖ It was emphasized that preparedness should not only be for the lakeshore municipalities but also for other municipalities/cities that may be affected
  - ❖ The LGUs were reminded to man their respective local DRRM operation centers 24/7
- The Provincial Engineering Office (PEO) transported a PCG rubber boat to the municipality of Talisay and the CDRRMC Tagaytay posted an advisory for tourist on the Taal Volcano
- Public Information Team of PDRRMC Batangas conducted ocular inspection in Talisay on April 18, 2011, to assess the preparedness of the municipality and conduct dialogue among affected families

### **MDRRMCs**

- The six (6) lakeshore municipalities convened their respective Local DRRMCs and activated their DRRMOs
- MDRRMCs Talisay, Mataas na Kahoy, Agoncillo and Laurel and CDRRMC Tanauan, thru their respective Public Information Offices (PIOs), intensified their Information and Education Campaign (IEC) to the residents in the high risk barangays near Taal Lake

- MDRRMC Mataas na Kahoy conducted a dialogue among the eight (8) Barangay Captains whose AORs are near the lake
- CDRRMC Tagaytay and MDRRMC Talisay identified three (3) evacuation centers namely: Tagaytay City Sports Complex, Tolentino Sports Center and Tagaytay National High School Gymnasium that can be utilized by the residents of Talisay and Agoncillo who might be affected by the possible eruption of Taal Volcano. and conducted an ocular inspection thereat
- Agreements on the provision of relief assistance were the following:
  - ❖ CDRRMC Tagaytay prepared family food packs good for two (2) days for the possible number of evacuees to be served in Talisay and Agoncillo
  - ❖ The affected LGUs and the Provincial Government of Batangas will provide relief goods for their constituents from the 3<sup>rd</sup> day onwards
  - ❖ DSWD-IV A augmentation support shall only be utilized once the LGUs relief goods are consumed

#### **RDRRMC Member Agencies**

- The Department of Social Welfare and Development Field Office IV-A has sufficient standby funds worth PhP275,000.00 and sufficient stockpile of relief commodities composed of 555 family packs worth PhP135,806.00, food (PhP520,893.60) and non-food (PhP14,925,389.50 ) ready for augmentation assistance and provided PhP120,000.00 worth of relief goods to the LGUs of Talisay, San Nicolas and Tagaytay City on April 18, 2011, broken down as follows:
  - ❖ Talisay (200 food packs and 200 non-food packs) - PhP60,000.00
  - ❖ San Nicolas (100 food packs & 100 non-food packs) - 30,000.00
  - ❖ Tagaytay City (100 food packs & 100 non-food packs) - 30,000.00
- The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources- DA IV-A conducted a meeting with fish cage owners and advised them to be ready to harvest their products in case the status of the volcano worsens
- The Department of Tourism IV-A issued memorandum to all Hotel and Resort owners of Tagaytay City to prepare their respective response plan in case Taal Volcano erupts.
- **The Philippine National Police, through its local units has undertaken the following preparations in line with the raising of Taal to Alert level 2:**
  - The Provincial Director of Batangas Provincial Police Office coordinated with the Provincial Governor and discussed appropriate measures**
  - The Chiefs of Police of lakeshore municipalities coordinated with their respective City/Municipal DRRMC for planning purposes and**

placed their respective SAR teams on standby at the police stations

- The Municipal Chiefs of Police of Talisay, Agoncillo, San Nicolas, Balite, Mataas na Kahoy, Alitagtag, Sta Teresita and Tanauan City accompanied their respective City/Municipal Mayors in various dialogue sessions conducted with affected residents
  - The PNP Maritime Group deployed one (1) team with one rubber boat within the vicinity of Taal Lake
  - The PNP Special Action Force (SAF) SAR company has been placed on alert for immediate deployment
- The Philippine Coast Guard on their part has undertaken the following :
    - Coast Guard District Southern Tagalog (CGDSTL) has conducted Maritime Security (MARSEC) patrol utilizing rubber boats along the waters of Brgy. Tabla, Pira Piraso and Brgy. San Isidro, Taal Volcano to dissuade/restrict tourists and civilians from entering the danger zone.
    - CGDSTL has already augmented the number of Special Operations Group divers / personnel at Coast Guard Detachment Talisay as well as the number of rubber boats to assist in the conduct of Maritime Patrol (MARPAT).
    - Coast Guard Detachment Talisay Personnel has stopped the operations of motorbancas going to Taal Volcano and issued advisories to the local populace living in coastal areas of Taal Lake.
    - Deployable Response Teams are on Standby to assist if forced evacuation is implemented.
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