

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. 3 re Taal Volcano Update

Releasing Officer



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Administrator, OCD

D A T E: 13 April 2011, 6:00 PM

Sources: DOST-PHIVOLCS and OCD Region IV-A

1. SITUATION OVERVIEW

Alert Level 2 is hoisted over Taal Volcano, with the interpretation that magma has been intruding towards the surface, as manifested by CO₂ being released in the Main Crater Lake and increase in seismic activity.

Taal Volcano's (14.0000°N, 120.9833°E) seismic network recorded eight (8) volcanic earthquakes during the past 24 hours. **One (1) of these events which occurred on 1:48 PM, 12 April 2011, was felt at Intensity II by residents in Barangay Calauit at the southeastern part of Taal Volcano island with rumbling sounds.** Water temperature slightly increased from 30.0°C to 30.5°C. Gas measurements conducted at Taal Main Crater Lake last January, February and March 2011 yielded carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission values of 2,250 tonnes per day (t/d), 1,875 t/d and 4,670 t/d respectively. **This large increase in CO₂ concentration indicates anomalous 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 the volcano edifice is slightly inflated as compared with the **02 - 09 February 2011** survey.

Precautionary Measures

PHIVOLCS reminds the general public that the Main Crater should be strictly off-limits because sudden steam explosions may occur and high concentrations of toxic gases may accumulate.

The northern portion of the Main Crater in the vicinity of 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 gases can be lethal to human, animals and even cause damage to vegetation.

The public is also reminded that the entire Volcano Island is a Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ), and permanent settlement in the island is strictly not recommended.

Affected Population

As of April 13, 2011 the 23 families / 98 persons who voluntarily evacuated to their relatives and Venacio Trinidad Elementary School have returned home.

2. ACTIONS TAKEN

- 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

Preparedness Activities of PDRRMC Batangas

- RDRRMC IV-A issued 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
- PDRRMC Batangas conducted 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; dispatch of 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**
- Another emergency meeting was held at 2:00 PM, 11 April 2011 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. OCD Regional Center IV-B Director Tomazar facilitated the discussion on the support that can be provided by the RDRRMC Member Agencies. PHIVOLCS Director Solidum briefed on the status of Taal Volcano. The 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:

- **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, 202nd - 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 for the lakeshore municipalities but also for other municipalities/cities that might be affected**
- **Each agency was reminded to man their respective local DRRM operation centers 24/7**
- PDRRMC Batangas activated its DRRM Operations Center; placed PDRRMC Members on standby alert and be ready with respective preparedness and response plan in case the activity of Taal Volcano escalates; and conducted inventory of resources and activated the Incident Command System
- Six (6) lakeshore municipalities also convened their respective LDRRMCs and activated their DRRMOs
- The Provincial Engineering Office (PEO) transported a PCG rubber boat to the municipality of Talisay
- CDRRMC Tagaytay posted an advisory for tourist on the Taal Volcano
- Monitoring on the status of Taal Volcano is continuous