

NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

NDRRMC UPDATE ALERT STATUS and ACTIVITY of BULUSAN, MAYON and TAAL VOLCANOES

Releasing Officer:



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DATE : 02 May 2011, 08:00 AM

Source: DOST-PHIVOLCS

1. SITUATION OVERVIEW

ALERT STATUS

BULUSAN and MAYON VOLCANOES ARE STILL AT ALERT LEVEL 1 AS OF 8:00 AM TODAY, 02 MAY 2011. THIS MEANS THAT NO ERUPTION IS IMMINENT AND THE SOURCE OF ACTIVITY IS HYDROTHERMAL AND SHALLOW.

TAAL VOLCANO IS STILL AT ALERT LEVEL 2 AS OF 8:00 AM TODAY, 02 MAY 2011. THIS MEANS THAT MAGMA HAS BEEN INTRUDING TOWARDS THE SURFACE, AS MANIFESTED BY CO₂ BEING RELEASED IN THE MAIN CRATER LAKE AND SUSTAINED SEISMIC ACTIVITY.

ACTIVITY

A) BULUSAN VOLCANO

The seismic network around Bulusan Volcano (12.7667°N, 124.0500°E) recorded three (3) volcanic earthquakes during the past 24 hours. Steaming activity was not observed due to thick clouds covering the summit area of the volcano. Results of ground deformation survey (precise leveling) conducted last 01-05 March 2011 showed no significant change as compared with 25-29 January 2011 survey. No other significant volcanic activity was observed since the 21 February 2011 ash explosion. No lahar event was reported or observed.

- Entry to the 4-kilometer radius Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ) is strictly prohibited, since the area is at risk to sudden steam and ash explosions
- Due to the prevailing wind direction, residents in the northwest and southwest sectors of the volcano are reminded to take precautions against ash falls
- Civil aviation authorities must also warn pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano's summit as ejected ash and volcanic fragments from sudden explosions may pose hazards to aircrafts. If possible aircraft should avoid flying on the western side of the volcano as volcanic debris are likely to be carried in this direction by the prevailing winds

- Furthermore, people living near valleys and river/stream channels should be vigilant against sediment-laden stream flows and lahars in the event of heavy and prolonged rainfall

B) MAYON VOLCANO

The seismic network around Mayon Volcano (13.2500°N, 123.6833°E) recorded one (1) volcanic earthquake during the past 24 hours. Steaming activity and crater glow were not observed due to thick clouds that covered the entire summit during the past observation period. Results of precise leveling survey conducted last 06-10 March 2011 showed slight deflation of volcano edifice as compared with 05-10 January 2010 baseline survey.

- It is recommended that the public should not enter the six kilometer (6 km) radius Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ) due to continuing threat from sudden small explosions and rockfalls from the upper and middle slopes of the volcano. Active stream/river channels and those perennially identified as lahar prone areas in the southern sectors should also be avoided especially during bad weather conditions or when there is heavy and prolonged rainfall

C) TAAL VOLCANO

Taal Volcano's (14.0000°N, 120.9833°E) seismic network recorded twelve (12) volcanic earthquakes during the past 24 hours. Field measurements conducted on 26 April 2011 at the western sector inside the Main Crater Lake showed that the water temperature increased from 30.1°C (19 April 2011) to 31.8°C (26 April 2011). Result of the ground deformation survey (precise leveling) 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.

- PHIVOLCS advises the public that the Main Crater, Daang Kastila Trail and Mt Tabaro (1965-1977 Eruption Site) are strictly off-limits because sudden 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 may even cause damage to vegetation
- The entire Volcano Island is a Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ) and permanent settlement in the island is strictly not recommended

2. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- NDRRMC–OPCEN disseminated said information to RDRRMCs-OCD Regions IV-A & V through SMS, facsimile, website and NDRRMC Twitter account for further dissemination to their respective local DRRMCs from the provincial down to the municipal levels
- DOST-PHIVOLCS, through the RDRRMCs PHIVOLCS in Regions IV-A, V and PDRRMCs Sorsogon, Albay and Cavite are closely monitoring the alert status and the activities of Bulusan, Mayon and Taal Volcanoes. Any significant development of same will be immediately relayed to all concerned