

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. 6 re Taal Volcano Update

Releasing Officer



USEC BENITO T. RAMOS
Executive Director, NDRRMC and
Administrator, OCD

DATE : 16 April 2011

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. **A noticeable increase in seismic network around Taal Volcano (14.0000°N, 120.9833°E) recorded twenty (20) volcanic earthquakes during the past 24 hours.** Water Temperature at the Main Crater Lake slightly increased from 29.8°C to 30.1°C. The large increase of CO₂ concentration indicates gas release from the magma at depth. Result of the ground deformation survey (precise levelling) conducted around the Volcano Island showed that volcano edifice is slightly inflated.

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 humans, 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 16 April 2011, a total of 233 families or 1,375 persons evacuated from 6 barangays in 4 municipalities of Batangas. There were 13 families or 54 persons inside 2 evacuation centers while 220 families or 1,321 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
Total	13	54		220	1,321
Talisay (from Pulo Island)	1	2	Venancio Trinidad Memorial School		
San Nicolas (from Brgy Alas-as)	12	52	2nd Floor of San Nicolas Public Market	190	1,209
Balete (from the following Brgys: Looc, San Sebastian and Brgy Sala)				30	95
Mataas na Kahoy (from Brgy Lumang Lipa)					17

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 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
- 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; 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
- 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 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
- PDRRMC Batangas activated 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 and conducted an 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
 - PDRRMC Batangas had a meeting with MDRRMC Balete to assess its preparedness and evaluate its Contingency Plan
 - MDRRMC thru the Public Information Offices (PIOs) of Talisay, Mataas na Kahoy, Agoncillo, Laurel and CDRRMC Tanauan 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 conducted an ocular inspection of the Tagaytay City Sports Complex, Tolentino Sports Center and Tagaytay National High School Gymnasium that can be utilized as evacuation centres for the residents of Talisay and Agoncillo who might be affected by the possible eruption of Taal Volcano.
 - Tagaytay CDRRMC has designated one (1) evacuation center and prepared family packs good for 2 days for the possible evacuees from Agoncillo and Talisay
 - BFAR 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
 - 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.
 - **RDRRMCIV-A issued a memorandum to all concerned member agencies requesting an update of earmarked assets and capacities 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**
-