



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

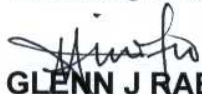
NATIONAL DISASTER COORDINATING COUNCIL

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

NDCC UPDATE

Notice of Taal Volcano Raising from Alert Level 1 – Alert Level 2

Releasing Officer:


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Source: DOST-PHIVOLCS and OCD Region IV-A and IV-B

1. Taal Volcano's Activity

- ❖ Beginning last week of April 2010, the monitored parameters have shown anomalous change as indicated by the following observations :
 - Since April 26, 2010, the number of volcanic earthquakes detected per day continued to increase. During the past 24 hours, 32 high frequency volcanic earthquakes were detected. The size of recorded earthquakes has also been increasing. On June 2, 2010, a low frequency type volcanic earthquake was detected
 - Temperature measurement of the main Crater Lake had increased to May 24, 2010, higher by 2.0-3.0°C from the previous measurement last May 11, 2010 of 32°C. the composition of the main Crater lake water has shown above normal values of Mg/Cl, SO₄/Cl and Total Dissolved Solids
 - Continuous ground temperatures and total magnetic field measurements installed by PHIVOLCS-EMSEV at Daang Kastila and in the Main Crater showed increasing trends
 - Steaming activities at the northern and northeast sides of the main Crater occasionally intensified accompanied by audible hissing sounds
 - Precise levelling measurements showed that the volcano remains slightly inflated since 2004. Initial result of precise levelling survey conducted yesterday at the southeast side of the Volcano Island showed further inflation by 3.0 mm
- ❖ The recorded high frequency volcanic earthquakes could be the result of active rock fracturing associated with magma intrusion beneath the volcano. The fractures served as [passageways through which hot gases from the intruding magma could escape into the Main Crater Lake .

2. Alert Level

- ❖ In view of the above observations and the interpretation that a fresh batch of magma has been intruding towards the surface, as manifested in the seismic swarms in 1992, 1994, 2000 and 2004 to present, Taal Volcano's status is now raised from **Alert Level 1 - Alert Level 2** which means that the volcano is undergoing magmatic intrusion which could eventually lead to an eruption.

3. Precautionary Measures

- ❖ PHIVOLCS reminds the general public that the Main Crater remains off-limits because hazardous steam-driven explosions may occur, along with the possible build-up of toxic gases. Areas with hot grounds and steam emission such as portion of the Daang Maharlika Trail are considered hazardous. PHIVOLC reiterates that the whole volcano island is a Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ) and permanent settlement within this area is strictly prohibited.

4 Actions Taken :

- ❖ In view of the issuance of Taal Volcano Alert by PHIVOLCS, the Chairman RDCC IV-A initiated preparedness activities thru issuance of memoranda to the following:
 - All RDCC IV-A member agencies placing them on standby/alert status for the conduct of an emergency meeting and possible activation of DOC/Emergency Responders
 - Chairman, PDCC Batangas for the following activities:
 - Implementation of pertinent provision of CONPLAN Taal such as: enforcement of 7-km Permanent Danger Zone; reorganization of residents in the island and preparation for evacuation; and re checking of evacuation route;
 - Coordinate with MDCCs and BDCCs concerned for planning, operational activities and prepositioning of logistical resources; and
 - Implement mitigation measures as deemed necessary
 - Chairman, CDCC Tagaytay to issue advisory to the tourists to refrain from going to Taal volcano island until such time that the alert level be lowered
 - The City Mayor of Tagaytay alerted all residents along the Tagaytay Ridge facing Volcano Island to prepare for evacuation in case the situation worsens and also identified an evacuation center