Mayon Volcano Update
28 February 2000; 2100H

Mayon Volcano began another series of explosive eruptions from 0700H to present, with the most significant eruptions occurring at 1641H, 1732H and 1940H. The first explosion produced a 5 – 6 km high eruption column and was significant because it generated a large pyroclastic flow that descended the western portion of the Bonga Gully in the southeast flank and entered the Mabinit channel to the south. This was followed by voluminous eruption clouds beginning 1732H that rose to about 10 km above the summit and generated multiple pyroclastic flow events which descended the southwest, south and southeast sectors. The crater produced vigorous explosive eruptions that sustained the eruption column and discharged large volcanic fragments that spattered the upper portions of the volcanic cone. The thick ash clouds that resulted from the pyroclastic eruptions hovered around the volcano and created frequent lightning discharge.

Most of the ash clouds were eventually carried to the southwest and western sectors of the volcano, affecting Ligao, Guinobatan and Camalig. However, the pyroclastic flow deposits *did not* travel beyond the present danger zones. The ash clouds contained high concentrations of Sulfur Dioxide and the PHIVOLCS COSPEC instrument recorded some 13,000 tonnes per day (t/d) emission rates which is expected for an eruption cloud. Electronic distance measurements today revealed that the volcano's edifice remained inflated. Such inflation is thought to be caused by the ascent of magma as indicated by the near-continuous seismic tremor that are associated with active magma transport.

In view of the above observations, the volcano's status remains at *Alert Level 5*. PHIVOLCS expects the eruptive activity to continue at least for the following days which may or may not be punctuated by apparently quiet periods. The 6-kilometer Permanent Danger Zone and the 8-km extended danger zone in the southeast sector of the volcano should remain fully evacuated until further notice. PHIVOLCS reminds the concerned authorities that aircraft should avoid lingering ash clouds in the western sections of the volcano and that alternate route should be taken. In this connection, passages in the eastern portion of the volcano, towards the Legaspi airport remains free from volcanic ash and debris as well as Sulfur Dioxide (SO2) emissions. Below is the list of barangays situated in the above mentioned danger zones.

***Daraga*: Budiao, Banadero and Miisi**
***Legaspi City*: Bonga, Buyuan, Mabinit and Matanag**
***Sto. Domingo*: Fidel Surtida and Sta. Misericordia**
***Malilipot*: Calbayog**
***Tabaco*: Magapo and Mayon Rest House Area**
***Ligao*: Baligang**
***Camalig*: Anoling**

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