Mayon Volcano Bulletin
29 February 2000
0800H

The series of major ash ejections and subsequent pyroclastic flows that occurred along Bonga Gully, Mabinit and Miisi Channels started at 1641H on 28 February 2000. The maximum height estimated for the vertical ash plume was 12 kilometers attained during the 1732H event. The approximate runout distance of the pyroclastic flows reached to about 5-6 kilometers downslope. Severe ashfall was felt in the SW sector of the volcano especially at Brgy. Tumpa, Camalig and Brgys. Maninila and Masarawag in Guinobatan. Lava fountaining with ballistic bomb was also frequently observed starting at 1732H with maximum height estimated at 1 kilometer.

After the above mentioned vigorous activities manifested by Mayon Volcano late in the afternoon to early evening yesterday, only quiet effusion of lava was noted during times when the volcano's summit was not obscured up to the end of the observation period.

Field surveys will be conducted to assess ashfall impact and map out extent of runout distance of the most recent lava flow and pyroclastic flow deposits resulting from yesterday's activity, especially on Bonga Gully and Mabinit Channel.

PHIVOLCS maintains Alert Level 5 since there is still high potential for occurrences of pyroclastic flows. Strict compliance of the 6-kilometer radius permanent danger zone and the extension to 8-kilometr in the southeast sector should be observed. Aircraft authorities are reminded that the western and southwestern sectors of the volcano should be avoided during times of ash ejections because eruption clouds are blown by prevailing winds towards these places. The vicinity of Legaspi City and Legaspi Airport remain clear of ashfall.

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