

Philippines on alert for another volcano eruption as thousands flee

July 4 2021



The Taal volcano has been discharging sulphur dioxide for the past week.

Philippine scientists warned Sunday a volcano south of Manila could erupt again "anytime soon" as toxic gas emissions hit a record high and thousands more people in vulnerable communities left their homes.

Taal [volcano](#), which sits in a picturesque lake, has been discharging [sulphur dioxide](#) for the past week, creating a haze over Manila and several surrounding provinces, and prompting health warnings.

Nearly 4,500 people have left their homes since authorities called for evacuations of high-risk areas on the lake's shores, the provincial disaster agency said Sunday.

Some settlements have been locked down, temporarily preventing residents from returning to their properties.

"An eruption similar to the 1 July 2021 event may occur anytime soon," the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said in a statement.

Taal, which lies 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Manila, burst to life last Thursday, sending steam and rock fragments hundreds of metres into the sky.

Several smaller eruptions followed.

It prompted the seismological agency to raise the alert level from two to three.

The last [eruption](#) there in January 2020 shot ash 15 kilometres high and spewed red-hot lava, crushing scores of homes, killing livestock and sending over 135,000 people into shelters.

Taal is one of the most [active volcanoes](#) in a nation hit periodically by eruptions and earthquakes due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire"—a zone of intense seismic activity.

Citation: Philippines on alert for another volcano eruption as thousands flee (2021, July 4)
retrieved 27 April 2024 from
<https://phys.org/news/2021-07-philippines-volcano-eruption-thousands.html>

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