

BRIGHT FIREBALL SEEN OVER ERUPTING MAYON VOLCANO, PHILIPPINES

Stunning nighttime footage captures volcanic glow and fireball as Mayon remains under Alert Level 3

ALBAY, PHILIPPINES — A bright fireball was seen streaking above the erupting Mayon Volcano late Friday evening, May 23, 2026, captivating residents and viewers across the country.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) confirmed that the fireball was likely a volcanic bomb—an incandescent rock fragment ejected during explosive activity.

Mayon, known for its near-perfect cone, has been showing increased volcanic unrest in recent days.

PHIVOLCS raised the alert level to 3 (“magmatic unrest”) on May 21, 2026, warning of possible hazardous eruptions within weeks.

“This is a reminder of the power and unpredictability of our volcanoes,” said PHIVOLCS Director Teresito Bacolcol. “We urge the public to stay vigilant and follow all safety advisories.”



A bright fireball is seen above the erupting Mayon Volcano on May 23, 2026. (Photo: Daryl Meloto / The Manila Times)

WHAT WE KNOW

- **Date/Time:** May 23, 2026 around 11:03 PM PHT
- **Location:** Mayon Volcano, Albay Province, Bicol Region, Philippines
- **Event:** Bright fireball observed above the summit during eruptive activity
- **Alert Level:** 3 (Magmatic Unrest)
- **Status:** Mayon remains active; monitoring continues 24/7
- **No reported injuries or damage**



Volcanic glow from Mayon's summit. (Photo: PHIVOLCS)

CURRENT SITUATION



PHIVOLCS reports increased seismic activity, lava flow from the summit crater, and ground swelling.



More than 10,000 residents remain evacuated in several barangays within the 6 km Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ).

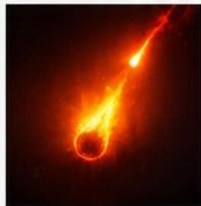


Authorities urge the public to avoid the PDZ and river channels prone to lahars, especially during heavy rain.



Mayon Volcano emitting steam and gas on May 24, 2026. (Photo: PHIVOLCS)

EXPERTS EXPLAIN: VOLCANIC FIREBALLS



Volcanic fireballs, or volcanic bombs, are large fragments of molten rock ejected into the air during explosive eruptions. They can be thrown hundreds of meters from the crater before cooling as they fall. While rarely reaching populated areas, they are a sign of strong eruptive activity.

WHAT TO DO

- ✓ Stay informed through official channels.
- ✓ Follow evacuation orders immediately.
- ✓ Avoid the 6 km PDZ and river channels.
- ✓ Be prepared for possible lahars (volcanic mudflows).
- ✓ Pray for protection for communities in danger.

OFFICIAL ADVISORY

PHIVOLCS continues to monitor Mayon Volcano closely and will issue updates as necessary. For the latest information, visit www.phivolcs.dost.gov.ph or follow PHIVOLCS on social media.

A CALL TO PRAYER

Let us lift up the people of Albay and all communities near Mayon Volcano. Pray for their safety, for wisdom for leaders, and for peace in the midst of uncertainty.

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”
– Psalm 46:1

