Natural Disasters

The Philippine Islands are prone to all kinds of natural disasters because of its geographical location and physical environment. The country is strategically located in the path of turbulent and destructive cyclones in the Pacific, and the "Ring of Fire." This situation has adverse effects, not only on the lives and properties of the Filipino people, but also on the economy of the nation, as disaster impacts may result in widespread environmental and property damages.

Natural disasters may cause danger to people, structures or economic assets, and may lead to a disaster if they are not mitigated against and prepared for.

The common hazards associated with these are heavy rains, strong winds, storm surge, floods and landslides/ mud slide /mud flow.

Almost all types of geological disasters occur in the Philippines except those associated with glaciers and seasonal snowfall.

(Source: http://www.deped.gov.ph/Disaster Risk Reduction Resource Manual)

Consumer Welfare and Promotion Office
Department of Energy
G/F DOE Annex Building
Rizal Drive cor. 34th Street
Bonifacio Global City
Taguig City

Landline: (02) 479-2900 Loc. 329
Tel./ Fax: (02) 840-2267
Mobile: 0917-5560-759
Email: energycwpo@gmail.com

December 2016

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

NATURAL DISASTERS

PREPAREDNESS, MITIGATION and REHABILITATION

PART 1 of 5

Consumer Welfare and Promotion Office

Typhoon

A typhoon is a large, powerful and violent tropical cyclone. It is a low pressure area rotating counter-clockwise and containing rising warm air that forms over warm water in the Western Pacific Ocean.

Less powerful tropical cyclones are called Tropical Depressions and Tropical Storms. A typhoon is called a hurricane in the Atlantic Ocean, a cyclone in the Indian Ocean and wily-wily in Australia.

Typhoons can inflict terrible damage due to thunderstorms, violent winds, torrential rain, floods, landslides, large and very big waves associated with storm surges.

Classification of Typhoons:

- Tropical Depression – maximum winds from 35 kph to 63 kph
- Tropical Storm – maximum winds from 64 kph to 118 kph
- Typhoons – maximum winds exceeding 118 kph

Preparedness and Mitigation
(What to do before):

- Establish and maintain coordination with Barangay Disaster Coordinating Councils (BDCC)
- Ensure that the building structure can withstand heavy rain and strong winds. Single level schools built at ground level may be anchored by guy wires to strengthen the stability of the structure.
- Learn about typhoon and other weather disturbances, their signs and warnings, effects and dangers and how to protect the people, records and property.
- Participate actively in the community's, school's or in the workplace's disaster response – drill or simulation.
- Observe strictly Department policies on the suspension of classes or work stoppage and invoke school-based or work-based decisions in coordination with the Local Government Units or the National Disaster Risks Reduction Management Council.

Response
(What to do during):

- Monitor through radio or other reliable sources the latest official report of **PAGASA*** on the typhoon.
- Gather the pupils or the people in the most stable, strong and safe building when it is no longer safe for them to go home.
- Stay indoors and away from windows.
- Coordinate with the proper officials on possible immediate evacuation measures especially if the structure is located in a low -lying area.
- Remain calm by keeping in tune with the latest developments.

* ***Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration***