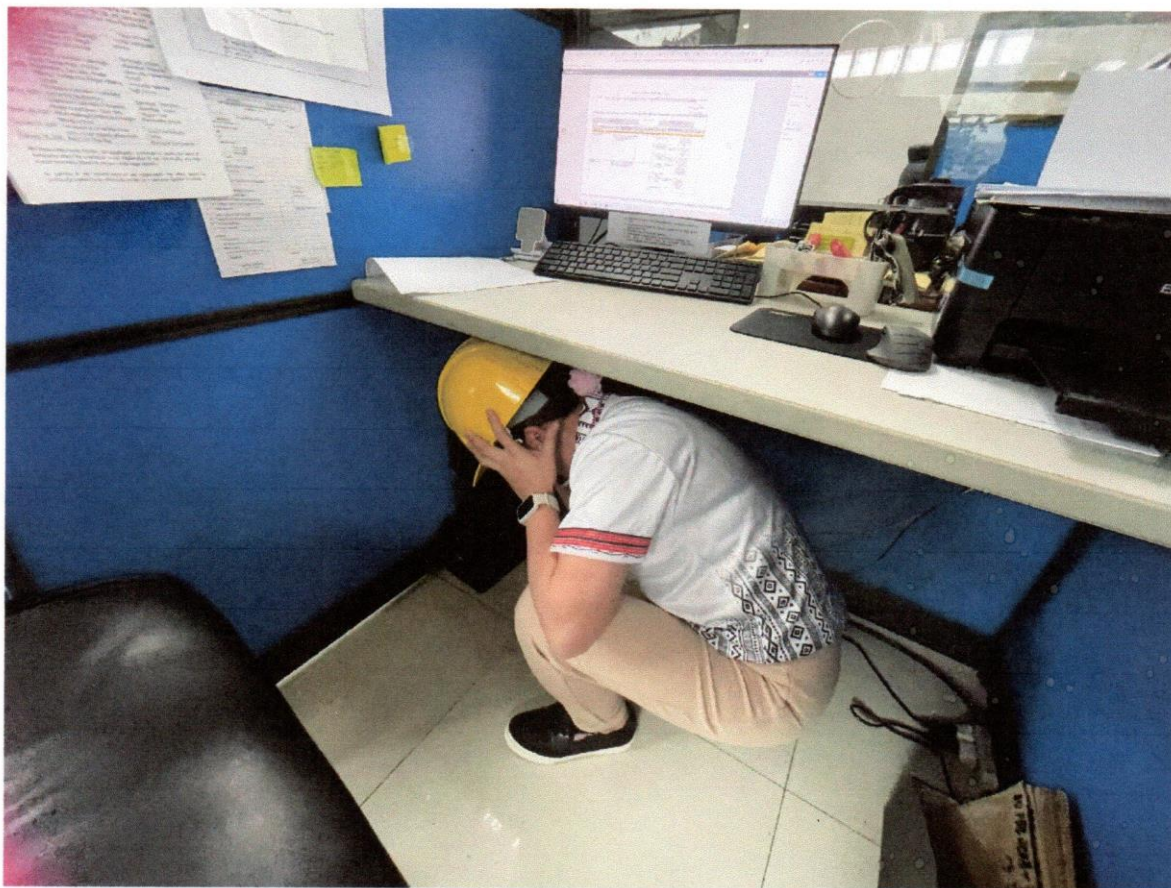


PRESS RELEASE

PSA Benguet Observes Earthquake Drill for Safety and Security

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Employees of PSA Benguet performed the duck, cover, and hold technique during an earthquake drill for emergency purposes.

Baguio City – To ensure preparedness for emergencies, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Benguet conducted an earthquake drill at their workplace on February 21. This activity is part of the Public Service Continuity Plan (PSCP) for PSA Benguet, which identifies that an earthquake or other calamities can pose risks to PSA operations.



During the activity, PSA employees followed prescribed indoor protocols by performing the "drop, cover, and hold" technique when the earthquake alarm rang. They dropped to the ground, crawled under their desks, used their hard hats to cover their heads, and stayed put until the shaking stopped or until they were sure it was safe to exit. After the alarm stopped, a headcount was conducted, and employees evacuated immediately via the designated evacuation route, which is a near and clear spot away from the building, trees, streetlights, or anything that may fall, as part of the outdoor drills.

According to the PSCP, studies conducted by the government indicate a significant threat of a major earthquake occurring in the country. Additionally, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) reported that such an event could lead to secondary hazards, including ground rupture, liquefaction, tsunamis, and earthquake-induced landslides.

Fortunately, the Risk Analysis Process (RAP) assessed a moderate risk concerning potential structural damage, injuries, and fatalities from an earthquake. The RAP also indicated no likelihood of ground rupture or liquefaction within and around the PSA Benguet office, as well as no risk of earthquake-induced landslides or tsunamis. Nevertheless, it remains essential for the staff to be trained on proper actions to take during and after an earthquake to ensure their safety.



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