

Three killed in landslides; rains drench city, Benguet

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Monsoon rains triggered two landslides in Benguet last week, killing three people and injured several others, as inclement weather continues to prevail over the Cordillera for two weeks.

The first landslide occurred at 4 p.m. of July 12 in a small-scale mining site in Ampucao, Itogon resulting to the death of a miner and serious injury to another.

Cordillera police reported that a group of five miners went inside their mining shaft when a landslide occurred in an adjacent hill prompting four of them to escape from the debris.

Joven R. Bao-anan, 30, of Nueva Ecija, was trapped with mud and rocks at the kitchen area. He was retrieved at around 5:30 p.m., rushed to the Baguio General Hospital but he eventually died.

The other miner, Manuel Di-ano, 30, suffered a leg fracture

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THREE . . .

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while the three others were discharged from the hospital after treatment for minor injuries.

The following day, July 13, two female passengers died when fallen trees triggered by a landslide hit two passing vehicles

along the stretch of Kennon Road at Uabac in Tuba.

The fatalities were named as Teresita de Guzman of Pangasinan and Marjorie Magsino with still no known address.

Fallen trees also hit another public utility jeepney that was tailing the commuter van, whose passengers were not injured.

A landslide also occurred at Balacbac, Sto. Tomas Proper in Baguio hitting a house. Civilian volunteers rescued the two occupants.

The unprecedented volume of rainfall being recorded by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Service administration has triggered the landslides.

As of July 14, Baguio and Benguet has been experiencing continued rains for 12 days and Pagasa has recorded 155.9 millimeters of rainfall in Baguio alone.

The average rainfall recorded in Baguio the whole of last month was 475.8 mm. — Harley F. Palangchao