

Costa Rica scare as ship carrying chemicals sinks

May 4 2015



A Costa Rican coast guard boat monitors the beach in Puntarenas, 95 km north of San Jose, on May 3, 2015, after authorities declared an emergency after a ship carrying 180 tons of ammonium nitrate sank off the country's Pacific coast

Costa Rican authorities declared an emergency after a ship carrying 180 tons of ammonium nitrate sunk off the country's Pacific coast.

The National Emergency Commission (CNE) urged people to avoid swimming at beaches and suspend fishing in the region off the port of

Puntarenas, 90 kilometers (55 miles) west of the capital.

The CNE said the accident occurred on Saturday when the boat sank in heavy seas. Two [crew members](#) were rescued without incident, the CNE said.

Ammonium nitrate is often used in the manufacture of [fertilizers](#) and explosives, and can be dangerous to health in cases of direct contact with the chemical.

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