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Worker dies, 19 crew members safe as cargo ship capsizes in Cebu

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz March 13, 2026, 2:58 pm



Philippine Coast Guard personnel work to extract an engine crew member from the capsized MV Theresa I at APO Cement Port in Naga City, Cebu, on Wednesday (March 11, 2026). The PCG District Central Visayas on Friday (March 13) reported the rescue of an engine room personnel, along with all other crew members of the ship, and the death of a cement hauler after being hit by a snapped mooring line during the ship's capsizing. *(Photo courtesy of CGDCV)*

MANILA – A cement factory dockworker died while a seafarer was rescued by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) when a cargo ship capsized at the APO Cement Port in Naga City, Cebu Wednesday.

In a belated report on Friday, the PCG District Central Visayas (CGDCV) said MV Theresa I was loading cargo at the port's Berth 1 when it listed — when a ship leans or tilts to one side — during de-ballasting that resulted in the vessel capsizing.

De-ballasting is a marine operation where water is discharged from a vessel's ballast tanks, usually done while cargo loading.

"Responders confirmed that one engine crew member was trapped inside the engine room," the CGDCV said.

The seaman was trapped inside the vessel for around three hours before PCG personnel were able to extract and give him medical attention.

All 19 crew members on board MV Theresa I were accounted for and safely evacuated.

However, a cement loader outside the ship was struck by a mooring line that snapped during the capsizing.

"The victim was rushed to a nearby hospital but was declared dead on arrival by the attending physician," the report said.

Meanwhile, the CGDCV deployed 100 meters of oil spill boom around the capsized vessel to prevent potential oil pollution in addition to continuous monitoring.

Aside from the PCG, responders from the Naga City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office and Apo Cement responded quickly and assisted in the rescue operations. **(PNA)**