

Nearly 300 abandon Argentine icebreaker

by UPI

BUENOS AIRES - Nearly 300 crewmembers of an Argentine icebreaker abandoned ship when the vessel caught fire in the South Atlantic.

The fire aboard the *Almirante Irizar* reportedly broke out in the generator room of the ship late Tuesday, prompting the 296-man crew to pile into 24 lifeboats and await rescue, *La Nacion* reported Wednesday.

The crew was reportedly rescued by a nearby oil tanker and fishing vessels near the tip of Argentina in the Patagonia region.

The cause of the blaze is still not known, said Argentine authorities.

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