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# Light View Is Taken Of Tahoe UFO Reports

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SOUTH LAKE TAHOE — Scores of people in Lake Tahoe's glittering casino district were dazzled by mysterious lights in the night sky Thursday, but authorities say those close encounters may have been with spotlights instead of unidentified flying objects.

According to Douglas County sheriff's deputies, the hovering, amber lights that attracted a large crowd early Thursday were actually casino floodlights being reflected by moonlit clouds that shrouded the Tahoe basin.

The deputies also discounted an earlier UFO sighting, made by two patrolling officers riding in separate cars around 9 p.m. Wednesday. The officers reported that a light streaked across the sky for several hundred yards before it landed in the lake near its southeastern shoreline.

"We figured it was either a flare or a meteor," Sgt. Les Osman said. "There was a search conducted after the sighting, but no more lights were located."

However, later in the night, a crowd gathered on Highway 50 between the Sahara Tahoe and Caesars Tahoe casinos. Amber-colored lights, in what onlookers described as being in a distinct triangular pattern, floated several hundred feet in the sky.

"It was bizarre, really bizarre," performer Patrick Bagwell said. "It was hazy but you could see the lights clearly. They were just floating there."

The Douglas County sheriff's office at nearby Zephyr Cove began receiving calls around 5 a.m. Officers investigated, Osman said, and determined that the lights were reflections from Caesars' roof. Onlookers were not convinced.

"We have been getting calls all day, and most of the people I have talked to say 'No way' — that is not what they saw," KRLT broadcaster Michael Bennett said. "They are convinced they saw something else."

"I know that is not what I saw," Bagwell said. "If those were lights from the casino, you would be able to see the beam, right? We saw no beam."

Bagwell said he fetched his camera and using a tripod, slow-speed color film and a short telephoto lens, shot several frames of the lights. They were quickly developed in a Sahara darkroom. "They came out pretty well," Bagwell said. "It looks like there is something up there."