

'UFOs' light switchboards

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (UPI) — Police switchboards between New York and New Haven were flooded with reports of UFOs, and motorists pulled off highways to watch the spectacle authorities said turned out to be a formation of aircraft.

Frightened residents from Westchester, N.Y., to New Haven followed the route of the mysterious lights through the night sky Thursday.

"It looked like six crosses with a red dot at the back," said John Olival, a security guard at Trumbull Shopping Park.

Sightings also were reported in Bridgeport, Monroe, Derby, Shelton and other communities, where residents described the

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object as "a big round thing" and "a trolley."

State police said about 100 to 150 motorists pulled off the Connecticut Turnpike to view the lights.

A besieged trooper at the State police barracks in Bethany later joked: "They stopped here. They are friendly and we directed them to Washington. They're from Uranus."

However, air traffic controllers at Sikorsky Memorial Airport in Stratford and Tweed-New Haven Airport said the sightings were a formation of aircraft flying over the area.

A controller at the Tweed-New Haven tower said about seven aircraft were flying in

"very close" formation at about 6,000 feet.

A similar formation has been viewed in the skies of Dutchess County in New York, officials said.

A spokesman for the County Sheriff's Office there said the "strange sight" over Connecticut's shoreline was most likely the same group of aviators.

"They did it two weeks ago and our switchboard lit up like crazy, but we only had about two calls tonight about strange aircraft," the sheriff's department spokesman said.