

Manhunt underway after Atlantic City casino heist

Written by Administrator

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John Bacon and William Cummings, USA TODAY 11:17 a.m. EDT July 22, 2014



The exterior of Caesars Atlantic City in Atlantic City N.J., with the Wild West facades of Bally's Atlantic City in the foreground. (Photo: Wayne Parry, AP)

If you are thinking Clooney and Pitt and *Ocean's Eleven* elegance, think again. The casino heist in Atlantic City this week was closer to smash and grab.

A manhunt was underway Tuesday after two masked thieves robbed a casino of more than \$180,000 at gunpoint Monday, local media were reporting.

Trooper Alina Spies told USA TODAY that New Jersey State Police were investigating a robbery of an undisclosed amount from Caesars Atlantic City. Spies declined to provide additional information that she said "could hinder the investigation."

The [Press of Atlantic City](#) and [NBC 10](#) in Philadelphia, citing local police, reported that two suspects entered the casino at around 6 a.m. and at least one of them pulled out a gun before stealing two plastic boxes containing more than \$180,000 in cash. The robbers then fled in a car.

The New Jersey State Police Gaming Bureau is investigating the case, indicating the robbery occurred within the casino, according to the *Press*. City police deal with matters related to the hotel and public areas.

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Despite all the famed security at casinos, heists are not that uncommon. One of the most daring took place at the Bellagio in Las Vegas in 2010, when a lone gunman entered the casino wearing a white motorcycle helmet. Anthony Carleo pointed a handgun at a craps table, crammed a pile of casino chips into a fanny pack, ran out of the casino and fled on a motorcycle. It took a couple months, but Carleo's luck ran out. He went to prison for his deed.

Then there was the misfortunes of David Hayes, an Ohio man who was robbed of his \$35,800 in casino winnings in 2012. A year later things got worse -- he was charged with stealing from the jewelry store where he worked to fund his gambling habit.

Things can't get much worse for gambling in Atlantic City. This week's robbery comes amid a crisis for local casinos, which have seen declining revenue for eight years. The casinos' losing streak continuing this summer: The 1,400-room Revel, which opened in 2012, entered bankruptcy for a second time, and Showboat and Trump Plaza, two of the city's oldest casinos, are planning to close in the fall.

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