

King Kong swiped from top of building

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Lock your doors!
Grab your children!

King Kong has escaped from the top of the Springfield 8 movie theater.

Well, sort of.

The 200-pound, 33-foot-tall inflatable Kong vanished overnight, apparently snatched by thieves who scaled the roof and snipped the star from his perch.

"We sent a photographer over there to take some pictures this morning, and that's when we discovered it was missing," said Adam Brown, vice president of Amberg Entertainment Inc., which rented out the big ape to promote the new King Kong movie.

Brown suspects King Kong might have been taken by pranksters who had little idea the theft is a felony.

"He's worth about \$7,000 or \$8,000, but he's worth absolutely nothing to the people that took him," Brown said.

The thieves left behind the blower motor that filled the beast with air and the sand bags that kept him from blowing away.

They also were caught on tape, Brown said.

"We watched the the-



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King Kong, or at least his inflatable twin, has been taken from a theater roof.

ater's security camera film and spotted three individuals taking him," he said. "You could see them push it over the edge. It took them over an hour to steal it."

Springfield police investigated Thursday. Spokesman Matt Brown asked anyone with information to call 839-7986.

Adam Brown urged the culprits to return Kong to the theater or to company's corporate headquarters, 2025 E. Chestnut Expressway.

As of Thursday afternoon, Adam Brown said he hadn't received any ransom requests.