

# Police captain arrested over copper found in warehouse

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A POLICE captain has been arrested after copper worth millions of rands was found on his business premises.

Police said a truck transporting copper from Zambia was hijacked on its way to Pretoria on Tuesday night.

Some of the hijackers locked the driver and his assistant into the boot of a white Toyota Corolla, while others jumped into the truck and drove away.

The driver and his assistant were then dumped in the veld. The driver managed to find his way to a police station, and opened a case.

Tracking company Matrix had already alerted police about the hijacking because the truck had deviated from its route. SAPS rapid response and Gauteng traffic police anti-hijacking teams then investigated.

Yesterday, they found the truck abandoned in Boksburg. The copper had already been offloaded.

Matrix revealed that the



**BUSTED:** Copper worth more than R1 million was found in a warehouse owned by a police captain. PICTURE: BONGIWE MCHUNU

truck had stopped at Fountains Industrial Park in Alberton. Hours later, officers conducted a door-to-door search of each business.

When the team got to a courier company, staff refused to let them in. The officers used force to enter the premises. They found piles of copper neatly packed in the corner and covered with plastic. The employees told the police they did not know how the copper got to the premises.

The investigation revealed that the owner of the company was a police captain at the Orlando police station in Soweto. He is expected to appear in court soon.

Provincial police spokesman Superintendent Eugene Opperman said he did not know anything about the arrests. Local police spokesman Captain Manaka Raphulu said: "I don't know anything about that, but I will try to find out."

