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Get ready to rumble

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CEDAR CITY - Since the beginning of the year, three Iron County Sheriff's Office vehicles have been experimenting with a new siren that emanates a vibration to surrounding motorists and pedestrians.

The rumbler sirens, installed by Premier Vehicle Installations from Salt Lake City, use the same tone as a normal siren, but have a lower frequency, said PVI Manager Rex Williams.

"It feels like when you're at a stoplight and the guy next to you is blaring his stereo," Williams explained. "New cars are so well sound-insulated, so this way you'll be able to notice that someone is trying to alert you."

Williams added that the siren was designed for dense, urban areas, especially those with heavy pedestrian traffic as people on cell phones or wearing headphones often do not notice sirens sounding.

ICSO Deputy Dwayne Heitzler, who demonstrated the siren Wednesday afternoon, said the local department uses it more to get drivers' attention to move to the right side of the road when emergency vehicles and law enforcement are on the move.

Heitzler added that if the sirens do what they were purchased for, the department would consider installing them on more vehicles in the future.

Williams said his company usually gets requests from ambulances and fire trucks, and has installed it for departments in Iron and Beaver counties as well as in northern Utah.

The siren comes with one amplifier and two speakers located behind the front bumper of the vehicle, Williams explained.

During the demonstration, the rumbling was felt more profoundly from the front of the vehicle because of placement, with a noticeable difference between the rumbler and a normal siren.

PVI Owner Clint Trickett noted that officers are advised not to play the siren for more than 10 seconds because of possible hearing damage.

