

New Safety Equipment Comes To Brown County

(KNZA)--An upgrade, in the name of safety, with new equipment installed on vehicles utilized by the Brown County Sheriff's Department.

Among the new additions are bright and vivid LED lights affixed to the lower sides of patrol vehicles.

Deputy Brian Guilliams says they are intended to allow motorists to more easily spot patrol vehicles, increasing visibility when they are stopped on the side of a road. "They're called HG2 runner lights. What their intentions are is actually to give a lot more side warning to traffic and other motorists," Guilliams tells MSC News.

Another addition is a specialized siren, known as a Rumbler, that can both be heard and felt. Installed at the front of Sheriff's Department vehicles, the siren can cause a car traveling in front of a patrol vehicle to shake. "It's an auxiliary siren that gives a low frequency to the normal siren, the high pitched siren," Guilliams says. "What it's intended to do is to actually give such a different tone that it's really recognizable to other motorists and stuff, even to the extent that it will vibrate other people's vehicles to give them that extra warning."

Guilliams says the Rumbler is intended as a guaranteed way to alert a motorist to the presence of a fast responding emergency vehicle. "Surprisingly enough, with the newer vehicles of today, everything's so sound proof and so tight that a lot of sounds just can't penetrate the inside of a vehicle. When you add the stereo and other distractions inside the vehicle, it's made to get people's attention."

Brown County Sheriff John Merchant says four of the department's eight vehicles are now installed with the lights and Rumlbers, with all future vehicles purchased by the department to come equipped with the devices.

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