



# Office of Commissioner of Insurance

**Ralph Hudgens**  
*Commissioner of Insurance*  
*Safety Fire Commissioner*  
*Industrial Loan Commissioner*

## NEWS RELEASE

*James "Sloppy" Floyd Building*  
*2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Suite*  
*704 West Tower*  
*Atlanta, Georgia 30334*

**October 20, 2016**  
**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Glenn Allen**  
**Phone: 404-463-0729**

### **HUDGENS: SUSPECT SOUGHT IN LOWNDES COUNTY ARSON FIRES**

**Atlanta** – State Fire Investigators with Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens' office and the Valdosta Fire Department announced today that they are actively searching for a person of interest in connection with a series of fires within the city limits of Valdosta.

Benjamin Michael Wilcox, 24, whose last known address was on 209 Windsor Street in Valdosta, is wanted for questioning in connection with nine structure fires that occurred between June and October 2016. "Eight vacant houses and one church sustained heavy damaged from the fires, which are within a 1-mile radius of each other," Hudgens said. There were no injuries reported.

Wilcox is a white male with dark black hair, standing at 5 feet and 8 inches tall, and weighs 172 pounds. Anyone with information about his whereabouts is asked to contact the Valdosta Fire Department at 912-333-1835 or the Georgia State Fire Marshal's Office at 800-656-2298.