FIREFIGHTER PERSONAL HISTORY FORM FAQ

The information listed below is presented to assist you in completing your Personal History Form (PHF) package. While not all-inclusive, the information does address the most frequently asked questions about the PHF. The headings and page numbers listed after each heading, correspond to the headings and page number(s) on the PHF form.

You should print this document, along with the PHF, and have it available as you complete the PHF.

NOTE: The web links in this document work best if copied and pasted into a web browser.

Important Instructions (Pages 1 and 2)

I have not been able to locate the documents I am supposed to bring. What should I do?

Please make every effort to bring the documents to the Initial Background. However, if you absolutely cannot obtain them in time, bring documentation of your efforts.

I did not have time to make copies of the documents. What should I do?

Please take the time to make any requested copies. We will not be able to make copies for you on the date of your Initial Background. There is a pay-to-use copy machine located in the Personnel Building lobby, but we do not guarantee it is available and working at all times.

Employment (Pages 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9)

Do I really have to list every job I have had?

Yes, your background investigation will be very detailed and your investigator is required to investigate your entire employment history. If you do not provide the information, your background could be delayed.

I don’t remember all of the jobs I have held. What should I do?

Please make every effort to locate the requested information. You might use old tax records, old personal telephone records, information from friends or relatives, etc. There are also several Internet sites that might be of assistance, including the Social Security Administration at [https://www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-7050.pdf](https://www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-7050.pdf).

I don’t remember all of my supervisors and co-workers. What should I do?

Please provide as much information as you can. You might consider contacting your former employers directly or referring to any paperwork (employee evaluations or write-ups) you have from that employment.
I don’t remember the dates of all of my unemployment periods. What should I do?

Please refer to your old tax records or unemployment benefit documents. If you received unemployment benefits in California, you may contact http://www.edd.ca.gov/ for assistance.

Military Service (Page 10)

I did not register with the Selective Service System. What should I do?

If you are over the age of 25 and were required to register, please be prepared to discuss your failure to register with your background investigator. If you are under the age of 26, please contact the Selective Service System at https://www.sss.gov/.

I served in the military, but I do not have my Form DD214 reporting my military service. What should I do?

You will be required to provide a copy of your Form DD214 (Page 4, Long Form) before your background investigation can be completed. You can learn about obtaining a free copy of your Form DD214 at https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/.

Education (Pages 10 and 11)

I do not have documentation of the education requirement. What should I do?

If you need to obtain your General Education Development certificate, you should contact The GED Testing Service at http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/sd/

You may also satisfy the education requirement if you hold a college degree from a recognized college or university. To see if your institution is certified, check with the Western States Association of Schools and Colleges at http://www.acswasc.org.

Residences (Pages 12 and 13)

I don’t remember some of my addresses. What should I do?

I don’t remember the names/contacts of my landlords. What should I do?

I don’t remember some of the dates of my residency periods. What should I do?

These sources of information are vital for a complete background investigation. Family members, old tax records, and current or former employers (find old employment applications that required residence information, etc.) are your best sources. Official documents (wedding/birth/divorce) from those time periods often required residence information. Also, legal documents (police/arrest/court) reports are often good sources.
**Motor Vehicle Operation and Insurance and Legal (Pages 18, 19, and 20)**

I don’t remember all of my citations/accidents. What should I do?

You may want to contact the concerned department of motor vehicles (most states have Internet sites). Your background investigation will include checks with other states’ DMV offices. For California information, contact DMV at [http://www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov).

**Family Members (Page 23)**

I have not seen or had personal contact with my dad/mom/brother/sister/other for 15 years. What should I do?

It is important that your background investigation include contact information for your adult family members. Please make every effort to get contact information for all required family members. Other family members are often the best source of such information.

**Marital Status (Page 24)**

I am divorced and have no idea where my former spouse is living/working. What should I do?

Please make every effort to provide your investigator with contact information. Family members, including former in-laws, are often the best sources for this information. For certified copies of Los Angeles County marriage certificates, contact [http://lavote.net/home/records/marriage-records/marriage-records-request/who-can-obtain-marriage-records](http://lavote.net/home/records/marriage-records/marriage-records-request/who-can-obtain-marriage-records). There are also several Internet sites that might be helpful ([http://whitepages.com](http://whitepages.com), [http://yellowpages.com](http://yellowpages.com), and search engines such as Google and Yahoo may also be helpful. Final divorce decrees are also required, and they can be obtained from the county where the divorce was granted.)