

Appendix I – Lessons Learned

This fire investigation was a valuable learning experience. While analyzing the photos, we found several things that we wish we had better pictures of. Below is a list of things that we would have done differently before and during the site examination:

- To prepare for the examination, read through selected chapters of NFPA 921, to get an idea of what types of burn patterns and evidence to look for
- During the site examination:
- Closer examination of all the walls, including the underside of wall layer that had started to peel off
- Photos of the underside of furniture, especially the wicker table. This would give us further insight into the burn patterns.
- Carefully sift through the burn debris on the floor and the furniture. Keep a lookout for evidence of cigarette butts and candles.
- We believe that the space heater was off, but wish we had gotten a better look at the switch
- Closer examination of the damaged copper wires
- Notes on types of materials
- X-rays of electronic components
- Homeowner inventory of items in the room