Yes, You Can Get a Burning Permit

In a city with a rural character such as Sunfish Lake disposal of large amounts of woody debris generated by removal of dead trees, buckthorn and honeysuckle removal, or landscape maintenance can be overwhelming. Chipping and composting are preferred methods of organic debris disposal however burning permits are available most of the year to burn brush, wood, and leaves. Since Sunfish Lake follows the DNR open burning advisories, burning permits may not be available during very dry periods that occur in the spring or fall.

Burning permits to burn brush are required if the fire will be larger than 3' wide and 3' high so this would usually include bonfires too. A burning permit **does not allow** the burning of household garbage, painted wood, paper, treated wood, railroad ties, plastic, tires, or other non-organic materials. Garbage burning is now the largest source of deadly dioxins in the United States.

Burning permits are available by contacting the City Forester, Jim Nayes, at 612-803-9033 for a fee of $45.00 payable to the City. Burning permits are good for burning on three days, either consecutive or non-consecutive, within one calendar year. Please keep your fires, recreational or otherwise, under control at all times because an out of control fire is not a good way to meet your neighbors.

General requirements for open burning in Sunfish Lake include:

Obtain a burning permit from the City forester.
Call the number specified on your burning permit prior to beginning your fire.
Keep the fire under control at all times.
Do not burn if the wind is more than 10 MPH.
Have a water source or other means of quickly extinguishing the fire nearby.
Smoke must not be a hazard to the public.
No open burning shall be conducted within 50 feet of a neighbor's residence without their written permission

A recreational fire does not require a burning permit.   **A recreational fire** is a fire that is no more than 3' wide and with flames that climb no higher than about 3' high.