Twelve recruit firefighters will begin a fifteen-week training course in Darwin on Monday, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services Syd Stirling announced today.

Mr Stirling said the recruits had been selected after undergoing a rigorous assessment process, including theoretical and physical assessments, physical aptitude training, medical and criminal history checks and a final interview.

"The recruits will undergo intensive training in a range of skills necessary for their future career," he said.

"They will be trained in the theoretical and practical aspects of fire and firefighting, such as the behaviour of fire, firefighter safety, pump operation and driver safety and the use of breathing apparatus.

"They will also learn to combat hazardous material spills, be trained in road accident rescue and will be put through their paces in physical training."

Mr Stirling said eleven of the twelve recruits were from the Northern Territory, with three from Alice Springs and eight from Darwin. The twelfth recruit is from Melbourne.

"At the end of their training, four of the new firefighters will be transferred to Operational Duties in Alice Springs and eight will be placed on Operational Duties in Darwin," he said.

"The intake of new recruits will boost the number of firefighters across the Northern Territory.

"It includes an additional five firefighters as part of the Government initiative to increase firefighter numbers by sixteen over its first term.

"The remaining seven recruits will replace those fire service members who have resigned or retired in the last twelve months."

The Recruit Course will be conducted from the Police, Fire and Emergency Service College at the Peter McAulay Centre, Berrimah. Practical aspects of the course will be conducted at other locations around Darwin over the next fifteen weeks.