

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — An 11-minute hail of sniper bullets from the top floor of a Holliday Inn raked shoppers and workers in Wichita's downtown area, killing two persons and wounding seven.

The gunfire on Wednesday from the top of the tallest building in Kansas ended when five police officers fired a volley of shots through a wall, wounding a 19-year-old man armed with two rifles.

The man, identified as Michael Soles of Sand Springs, Okla., was under guard at a hospital. He was reported in fair condition with leg wounds. Charges were expected to be filed today.

Victims of what witnesses said was apparently random firing from the 26th floor of the Holiday Inn Plaza included workmen and office workers, shoppers, teen-agers waiting to buy tickets to a rock concert and a news photographer who had rushed to the scene.

Dead were Joe Goulart, 56, a free-lance photographer killed when a bullet smashed through the windshield of his car less than a block from the hotel; and Elmer W. Hensley, 57, a glass company worker, who died after he was struck in the back by a bullet as he stood on the roof of an adjoining building.

One of the seven persons wounded was in critical condition and two were listed as in serious condition.

Soles was described by relatives in Oklahoma as a 'deeply religious boy' who had no history of trouble. A welder by trade, he had gone to Wichita several months ago seeking work, they said.

Friends and neighbors in Wichita described Soles as friendly and personable, a chunky, red-haired young man who helped one man fix his car and was a babysitter for the children of the minister with whom he was staying. The minister, the Rev. Timothy Hutton, would not talk with reporters.

Scores of police converged on the Holiday Inn within minutes of the first shooting report at 2:54 p.m. Wednesday. Shots were already raining down on the street as police

opened fire. Bullets spattered buildings and streets during a light drizzle.

“I must have heard 30 or 35 shots,” said Dan Bachmann, an attorney in a neighboring building. “Then I saw him (the gunman) throw down what appeared to be two rifles. The next thing I saw up there were two or three police officers.”

Among the seven wounded was Mark Falen, 23, a bank loan officer, who was in critical condition with a neck wound he received while walking to his office.

In serious condition were Arnold Merritt, 51, another glass worker who was hit in the chest and knee, and Denise Guseman, 16, of Derby, Kan., who was hit in the neck.