

**Contact:**

Michael Lienau  
Global Network Productions  
425.330.1413  
michael@globalnetproductions.com

May 7, 2020

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

- **40-Year Anniversary of Mount St. Helens 1980 Eruption**
- **Volcano Awareness Month this May 2020**
- **A survivor of the unforgettable eruption available for interviews**

**FILMMAKER/SURVIVOR, NEARLY KILLED AT MOUNT ST. HELENS' ERUPTION,  
REFLECTS ON LESSONS LEARNED OVER THE LAST 40 YEARS —  
INCLUDING HOW IT PREPARED HIM FOR PANDEMICS.**

*Camano Island, WA- Kailua Kona, Hawaii*— Michael Lienau has witnessed the 2 largest volcanic eruptions in U.S. history; Mount St. Helens in 1980 and Kilauea in 2018. He offers unique perspectives on lessons learned over the past 40 years, including how to prepare for all kinds of disasters- even a pandemic.

In 1980, Lienau was a 20-year-old cameraman with a film crew attempting to capture the first ground level shots of the eruption's aftermath. When a second eruption shook the ground, they narrowly escaped death as the blast rocketed over their heads.

Trapped for nearly four days, the film crew became "the story" they were covering, even declared missing and presumed dead. Miraculously, they survived when a rescue helicopter spotted them. "As the rescue helicopter was lifting off the ground, I felt very humbled. It was the beginning of a lesson in life I'll never forget," says Lienau.

Lienau's dramatic experience fueled a life-long pursuit to understand what happened to him and other survivors. Several of these stories are featured in his seven-time award-winning documentary, "***The Fire Below Us: Remembering Mount St. Helens***," seen on National Geographic, PBS and international television.

"The 2018 eruptions in Hawai'i and the evacuation of thousands of people is yet another reminder of the volatility and swiftness of eruptions, similar to what happened at Mount St. Helens in 1980." says Lienau. Although very different geologically, the human story is eerily similar.

There are actually 161 active volcanoes in the United States. Most are located in Alaska, where eruptions occur virtually every year. Others are located throughout the West Coast and in Hawaii. Kilauea Volcano in Hawaii has been one of earth's most active volcanoes, erupting almost continuously since 1983.

The Mount St. Helens eruption ignited the relatively new science of volcanology, focusing attention on these dynamic earth processes. “Documenting changes at Mount St. Helens these last four decades with my camera has given me a unique perspective,” said Lienau. “And living near Kilauea, I have been fascinated with the Hawaiian volcanoes’ history where scientists’ discoveries at Kilauea in the early 1900’s was the beginning of modern volcanology. The detection information developed there was transferred to Mount St. Helens in 1980 and is now credited for saving many hundreds of thousands of lives around the world.”

A whole new generation is eager to learn what happened at Mount St. Helens and Hawaii Island. “I think people are captivated by these ‘larger-than-life’ events, and Mount St. Helens remains one of the most unforgettable natural disasters in U.S. history. The 2018 Hawaiian eruptions made headlines daily, so learning to live with active volcanoes is important for those living near them,” adds Lienau.

Lienau has produced numerous educational films on geologic disasters and the importance of preparedness because disasters usually strike without warning. This also led him to produce a film on preparing for pandemics. “We learned that preparing for a volcano or earthquake also prepares us for other disasters such as the current pandemic. In our family preparedness kit we had N-95 masks, sanitizers, gloves and other necessary supplies already on hand as well as some understanding the importance of safety protocols.”

Lienau’s personal experience and unique knowledge base has been a valuable resource for numerous documentaries, TV/radio programs and articles. His work has built the largest private collection of professional stock footage from the Mount St. Helens and Hawaiian eruptions - some 700+ hours of footage and photos. He is available for media interviews immediately.

For more information, still photos, interviews and stock footage contact:

Michael Lienau  
Global Net Productions, Inc.  
Cell phone: 425.330.1413  
[michael@globalnetproductions.com](mailto:michael@globalnetproductions.com)  
Visit: [www.globalnetproductions.com](http://www.globalnetproductions.com)  
For electronic press kit, photos and B-Roll





Sample photos:  
20 Year old Michael Lienau filming at  
Mount St. Helens, May 1980



Michael filming Kilauea Hawaii Eruption, May 2018



Michael at his home studio on Camano Island, May 2020